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2016 年 6 月

第一套

Passage One

Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.

Interactive television advertising, which allows viewers to use their remote controls to click on advertisements, has been pushed for years. Nearly a decade ago it was predicted that viewers of "Friends", a popular situation comedy, would soon be able to purchase a sweater like Jennifer Aniston's with a few taps on their remote control. "It's been the year of interactive television advertising for the last ten or twelve years," says Colin Dixon of a digital-media consultancy.

So the news that Cablevision, and American cable company, was rolling out interactive advertisements to all its customers on October 6th was greeted with some skepticism. During commercials, an overlay will appear at the bottom of the screen, prompting viewers to press a button to request a free sample or order a catalogue. Cablevision hopes to allow customers to buy things with their remote controls early next year.

Television advertising could do with a boost. Spending fell by 10% in the first half of the year. The popularization of digital video recorders has caused advertisers to worry that their commercials will be skipped. Some are turning to the Internet, which is cheaper and offers concrete measurements like click-through rates - especially important at a time when marketing budgets are tight. With the launch of interactive advertising, "many of the dollars that went to the Internet will come back to the TV," says David Kline of Cablevision. Or so the industry hopes.

In theory, interactive advertising can engage viewers in a way that 30-second spots do not. Unilever recently ran an interactive campaign for its Axe deodorant(除臭剂), which kept viewers engaged for more than three minutes on average.

The amount spent on interactive advertising on television is still small. Magna, an advertising agency, reckons it will be worth about \$138 million this year. That falls far short of the billions of dollars people once expected it to generate. But DirecTV, Comcast and Time Warner Cable have all invested in it. A new effort led by Canoe Ventures, a coalition of leading cable providers, aims to make interactive advertising available across America later this year. BrightLine iTV, which designs and sells interactive ads, says interest has surged: it expects its revenues almost to triple this year. BSkyB, Britain's biggest satellite-television service, already provides 9 million customers with interactive ads.

Yet there are doubts whether people watching television, a "lean back" medium, crave interaction. Click-through rates have been high so far (around 3-4%, compared with less than 0.3% online), but that may be a result of the novelty. Interactive ads and viewers might not go well together.

46. What does Colin Dixon mean by saying "It's been the year of interactive television

advertising for the last ten or twelve years" (Lines 4-5, Para. 1)?

- A) Interactive television advertising will become popular in 10-12 years.
 - B) Interactive television advertising has been under debate for the last decade or so.
 - C) Interactive television advertising is successful when incorporated into situation comedies.
 - D) Interactive television advertising has not achieved the anticipated results.
47. What is the public's response to Cablevision's planned interactive TV advertising program?
- A) Pretty positive. B) Totally indifferent. C) Somewhat doubtful. D) Rather critical.
48. What is the impact of the wide use of digital video recorders on TV advertising?
- A) It has made TV advertising easily accessible to viewers.
 - B) It helps advertisers to measure the click-through rates.
 - C) It has placed TV advertising at a great disadvantage.
 - D) It enables viewers to check the sales items with ease.
49. What do we learn about Unilever's interactive campaign?
- A) It proves the advantage of TV advertising. B) It has done well in engaging the viewers.
 - C) It helps attract investments in the company. D) It has boosted the TV advertising industry.
50. How does the author view the hitherto high click-through rates?
- A) They may be due to the novel way of advertising.
 - B) They signify the popularity of interactive advertising.
 - C) They point to the growing curiosity of TV viewers.
 - D) They indicate the future direction of media reform.

Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

What can be done about mass unemployment? All the wise heads agree: there're no quick or easy answers. There's work to be done, but workers aren't ready to do it - they're in the wrong places, or they have the wrong skills. Our problems are "structural," and will take many years to solve.

But don't bother asking for evidence that justifies this bleak view. There isn't any. On the contrary, all the facts suggest that high unemployment in America is the result of inadequate demand. Saying that there're no easy answers sounds wise. But it's actually foolish: our unemployment crisis could be cured very quickly if we had the intellectual clarity and political will to act. In other words, structural unemployment is a fake problem, which mainly serves as an excuse for not pursuing real solutions.

The fact is job openings have plunged in every major sector, while the number of workers forced into part-time employment in almost all industries has soared. Unemployment has surged in every major occupational category. Only three states. With a combined population not much larger than that of Brooklyn, have unemployment rates below 5%. So the evidence contradicts the claim that we're mainly suffering from structural unemployment. Why, then, has this claim become so popular?

Part of the answer is that this is what always happens during periods of high unemployment - in part because experts and analysts believe that declaring the problem

deeply rooted, with no easy answers, makes them sound serious.

I've been looking at what self-proclaimed experts were saying about unemployment during the Great Depression; it was almost identical to what Very Serious People are saying now. Unemployment cannot be brought down rapidly, declared one 1935 analysis, because the work force is "unadaptable and untrained. It cannot respond to the opportunities which industry may offer." A few years later, a large defense buildup finally provided a fiscal stimulus adequate to the economy's needs - and suddenly industry was eager to employ those "unadaptable and untrained" workers.

But now, as then, powerful forces are ideologically opposed to the whole idea of government action on a sufficient scale to jump-start the economy. And that, fundamentally, is why claims that we face huge structural problems have been multiplying: they offer a reason to do nothing about the mass unemployment that is crippling out economy and our society.

So what you need to know is that there's no evidence whatsoever to back these claims. We aren't suffering from a shortage of needed skills. We're suffering from a lack of policy resolve. As I said, structural unemployment isn't a real problem, it's an excuse - a reason not to act on America's problems at a time when action is desperately needed.

51. What does the author think is the root cause of mass unemployment in America?

- A) Corporate mismanagement. B) Insufficient demand.
- C) Technological advances. D) Workers' slow adaptation.

52. What does the author think of the experts' claim concerning unemployment?

- A) Self-evident. B) Thought-provoking. C) Irrational. D) Groundless.

53. What does the author say helped bring down unemployment during the Great Depression?

- A) The booming defense industry. B) The wise heads' benefit package.
- C) Nationwide training of workers. D) Thorough restructuring of industries.

54. What has caused claims of huge structural problems to multiply?

- A) Powerful opposition to government's stimulus efforts.
- B) Very Serious People's attempt to cripple the economy.
- C) Evidence gathered from many sectors of the industries.
- D) Economists' failure to detect the problems in time.

55. What is the author's purpose in writing the passage?

- A) To testify to the experts' analysis of America's problems.
- B) To offer a feasible solution to the structural unemployment.
- C) To show the urgent need for the government to take action.
- D) To alert American workers to the urgency for adaptation.

第二套

Passage One

Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.

Facing water shortages and escalating fertilizer costs, farmers in developing countries are using raw sewage(下水道污水) to irrigate and fertilize nearly 49 million acres of cropland, according to a new report - and it may not be a bad thing.

While the practice carries serious health risks for many, those dangers are outweighed by the social and economic gains for poor urban farmers and consumers who need affordable food.

"There is a large potential for waste water agriculture to both help and hurt great numbers of urban consumers," said Liqa Raschid-Sally, who led the study.

The report focused on poor urban areas, where farms in or near cities supply relatively inexpensive food. Most of these operations draw irrigation water from local rivers or lakes. Unlike developed cities, however, these areas lack advanced water-treatment facilities, and rivers effectively become sewers(下水道).

When this water is used for agricultural irrigation, farmers risk absorbing disease-causing bacteria, as do consumers who eat the produce raw and unwashed. Nearly 2.2 million people die a year because of diarrhea-related(与腹泻相关的) diseases, according to WHO statistics. More than 80% of those cases can be attributed to contact with contaminated water and a lack of proper sanitation. But Pay Drechsel, an environmental scientist, argues that the social and economic benefits of using untreated human waste to grow food outweigh the health risks.

Those dangers can be addressed with farmer and consumer education, he said, while the free water and nutrients from human waste can help urban farmers in developing countries to escape poverty.

Agriculture is a water-intensive business, accounting for nearly 70% of global fresh water consumption.

In poor, dry regions, untreated waste water is the only viable irrigation source to keep farmers in business. In some cases, water is so scarce that farmers break open sewage pipes transporting waste to local rivers.

Irrigation is the primary agricultural use of human waste in the developing world. But frequently untreated human waste harvested from lavatories is delivered to farms and spread as fertilizer.

In most cases, the human waste is used on grain crops, which are eventually cooked, minimizing the risk of transmitting water-borne diseases. With fertilizer prices jumping nearly 50% per metric ton over the last year in some places, human waste is an attractive, and often necessary, alternative.

In cases where sewage mud is used, expensive chemical fertilizer use can be avoided. The mud contains the same critical nutrients.

"Overly strict standards often fail," James Bartram, a WHO water-health expert, said. "We need to accept that fact across much of the planet, so waste with little or no treatment will be used in agriculture for good reason."

46. What does the author say about the use of raw sewage for farming?

- A) Its risks cannot be overestimated. B) It should be forbidden altogether.
- C) Its benefits outweigh the hazards involved. D) It is polluting millions of acres of cropland.

47. What is the main problem caused by the use of waste water for irrigation?

- A) Rivers and lakes nearby will gradually become contaminated.

- B) It will drive producers of chemical fertilizers out of business.
 - C) Farmers and consumers may be affected by harmful bacteria.
 - D) It will make the farm produce less competitive on the market.
48. What is environmental scientist Pay Drechsel's attitude towards the use of untreated human waste in agriculture?
- A) Favorable. B) Skeptical. C) Indifferent. D) Responsible.
49. What does Pay Dreschsel think of the risks involved in using untreated human waste for farming?
- A) They have been somewhat exaggerated.
 - B) They can be dealt with through education.
 - C) They will be minimized with new technology.
 - D) They can be addressed by improved sanitation.
50. What do we learn about James Bartram's position on the use of human waste for farming?
- A) He echoes Pay Drechsel's opinion on the issue.
 - B) He challenges Liqa Raschid-Sally's conclusion.
 - C) He thinks it the only way out of the current food crisis.
 - D) He deems it indispensable for combating global poverty.

Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

These days, nobody needs to cook. Families graze on high-cholesterol take-aways and microwaved ready-meals. Cooking is an occasional hobby and a vehicle for celebrity chefs. Which makes it odd that the kitchen has become the heart of the modern house: what the great hall was to the medieval castle, the kitchen is to the 21st-century home.

The money spent on kitchens has risen with their status. In America the kitchen market is now worth \$170 billion, five times the country's film industry. In the year to August 2007, IKEA, a Swedish furniture chain, sold over one million kitchens worldwide. The average budget for a "major" kitchen overhaul in 2006, calculates Remodeling magazine, was a staggering \$54,000; even a "minor" improvement cost on average \$18,000.

Exclusivity, more familiar in the world of high fashion, has reached the kitchen: Robinson & Cornish, a British manufacturer of custom-made kitchens, offers a Georgian-style one which would cost £145,000-155,000 - excluding building, plumbing and electrical work. Its big selling point is that nobody else will have it: "You won't see this kitchen anywhere else in the world."

The elevation of the room that once belonged only to the servants to that of design show case for the modern family tells the story of a century of social change. Right into the early 20th century, kitchens were smoky, noisy places, generally located underground, or to the back of the house, as far from living space as possible. That was a sit should be: kitchens were for servants, and the aspiring middle classes wanted nothing to do with them.

But as the working classes prospered and the servant shortage set in, housekeeping became a matter of interest to the educated classes. One of the pioneers of a radical new

way of thinking about the kitchen was Catharine Esther Beecher, sister of Harriet Beecher Stowe. In *American Woman's Home*, published in 1869, the Beecher sisters recommended a scientific approach to household management, designed to enhance the efficiency of a woman's work and promote order.

Many contemporary ideas about kitchen design can be traced back to another American, Christine Frederick, who set about enhancing the efficiency of the housewife. Her 1919 work, *House Engineering: Scientific Management in the Home*, was based on detailed observation of a housewife's daily routine. She borrowed the principle of efficiency on the factory floor and applied it to domestic tasks on the kitchen floor.

Frederick's central idea, that "stove, sink and kitchen table must be placed in such a relation that useless steps are avoided entirely", inspired the first fully fitted kitchen, designed in the 1920s by Margarete Schutter-Libotsky. It was a modernist triumph, and many elements remain central features of today's kitchen.

51. What does the author say about the kitchen of today?

- A) It is where housewives display their cooking skills.
- B) It is where the family entertains important guests.
- C) It has become something odd in a modern house.
- D) It is regarded as the center of a modern home.

52. Why does the Georgian-style kitchen sell at a very high price?

- A) It is believed to have tremendous artistic value.
- B) No duplicate is to be found in any other place.
- C) It is manufactured by a famous British company.
- D) No other manufacturer can produce anything like it.

53. What does the change in the status of the kitchen reflect?

- A) Improved living conditions. B) Women's elevated status.
- C) Technological progress. D) Social change.

54. What was the Beecher sisters' idea of a kitchen?

- A) A place where women could work more efficiently.
- B) A place where high technology could be applied.
- C) A place of interest to the educated people.
- D) A place to experiment with new ideas.

55. What do we learn about today's kitchen?

- A) It represents the rapid technological advance in people's daily life.
- B) Many of its central features are no different from those of the 1920s.
- C) It has been transformed beyond recognition.
- D) Many of its functions have changed greatly.

第三套

Passage One

Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.

Manufacturers of products that claim to be environmentally friendly will face tighter rules on how they are advertised to consumers under changes proposed by the Federal Trade Commission.

The commission's revised "Green Guides" warn marketers against using labels that make broad claims, like "eco-friendly". Marketers must qualify their claims on the product packaging and limit them to a specific benefit, such as how much of the product is recycled.

"This is really about trying to cut through the confusion that consumers have when they are buying a product and that businesses have when they are selling a product," said Jon Leibowitz, chairman of the commission.

The revisions come at a time when green marketing is on the rise. According to a new study, the number of advertisements with green messages in mainstream magazines has risen since 1987, and peaked in 2008 at 10.4%. In 2009, the number dropped to 9%. But while the number of advertisements may have dipped, there has been a rapid spread of eco-labeling. There are both good and bad players in the eco-labeling game.

In the last five years or so, there has been an explosion of green claims and environmental claims. It is clear that consumers don't always know what they are getting.

A handful of lawsuits have been filed in recent years against companies accused of using misleading environmental labels. In 2008 and 2009, class-action lawsuits(集体诉讼) were filed against SC Johnson for using "Greenlist" labels on its cleaning products. The lawsuits said that the label was misleading because it gave the impression that the products had been certified by a third party when the certification was the company's own.

"We are very proud of our accomplishments under the Greenlist system and we believe that we will prevail in these cases," Christopher Beard, director of public affairs for SC Johnson, said, while acknowledging that "this has been an area that is difficult to navigate."

Companies have also taken it upon themselves to contest each other's green claims.

David Mallen, associate director of the Council of Better Business Bureau, said in the last two years the organization had seen an increase in the number of claims companies were bringing against each other for false or misleading environmental product claims.

"About once a week, I have a client that will bring up a new certification I've never even heard of and I'm in this industry," said Kevin Wilhelm, chief executive officer of Sustainable Business Consulting. "It's kind of a Wild West, anybody can claim themselves to be green." Mr. Wilhelm said the excess of labels made it difficult for businesses and consumers to know which labels they should pay attention to.

46. What do the revised "Green Guides" require businesses to do?

- A) Manufacture as many green products as possible.
- B) Indicate whether their products are recyclable.
- C) Specify in what way their products are green.
- D) Attach green labels to all of their products.

47. What does the author say about consumers facing an explosion of green claims?

- A) They can easily see through the businesses' tricks.
- B) They have to spend lots of time choosing products.
- C) They have doubt about current green certification.
- D) They are not clear which products are truly green.

48. What was SC Johnson accused of in the class-action lawsuits?

- A) It gave consumers the impression that all its products were truly green.
 - B) It gave a third party the authority to label its products as environmentally friendly.
 - C) It misled consumers to believe that its products had been certified by a third party.
 - D) It sold cleaning products that were not included in the official "Greenlist".
49. How did Christopher Beard defend his company's labeling practice?
- A) There were no clear guidelines concerning green labeling.
 - B) His company's products had been well received by the public.
 - C) It was in conformity to the prevailing practice in the market.
 - D) No law required the involvement of a third party in certification.
50. What does Kevin Wilhelm imply by saying "It's kind of a Wild West" (Line 3, Para.11)?
- A) Businesses compete to produce green products.
 - B) Each business acts its own way in green labeling.
 - C) Consumers grow wild with products labeled green.
 - D) Anything produced in the West can be labeled green.

Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

America's education system has become less a ladder of opportunity than a structure to transmit inequality from one generation to the next.

That's why school reform is so critical. This is an issue of equality, opportunity and national conscience. It's not just about education, but about poverty and justice.

It's true that the main reason inner-city schools do poorly isn't teachers' unions, but poverty. Southern states without strong teachers' unions have schools at least as awful as those in union states. Some Chicago teachers seem to think that they shouldn't be held accountable until poverty is solved. There're steps we can take that would make some difference, and Mayor Rahm Emanuel is trying some of them - yet the union is resisting.

I'd be sympathetic if the union focused solely on higher compensation. Teachers need to be much better paid to attract the best college graduates to the nation's worst schools. But, instead, the Chicago union seems to be using its political capital primarily to protect weak performers.

There's solid evidence that there are huge differences in the effectiveness of teachers. The gold standard study by Harvard and Columbia University scholars found that even in high-poverty schools, teachers consistently had a huge positive or negative impact.

Get a bottom 1% teacher, and the effect is the same as if a child misses 40% of the school year. Get a teacher from the top 20%, and it's as if a child has gone to school for an extra month or two.

The study found that strong teachers in the fourth through eighth grades raised the skills of their students in ways that would last for decades. Just having a strong teacher for one elementary year left pupils a bit less likely to become mothers as teenagers, a bit more likely to go to college and earning more money at age 28.

How does one figure out who is a weak teacher? Yes, that's a challenge. But researchers are improving systems to measure a teacher's performance throughout the year, and, with

three years of data, it's usually possible to tell which teachers are failing.

Unfortunately, the union in Chicago is insisting that teachers who are laid off - often for being ineffective - should get priority in new hiring. That's an insult to students.

Teaching is so important that it should be like other profession, with high pay and good working conditions but few job protections for bottom performers.

This isn't a battle between garment workers and greedy bosses. The central figures in the Chicago schools strike are neither strikers nor managers but 350,000 children. Protecting the union demand sacrifices those students, in effect turning a blind eye to the injustice in the education system.

51. What do we learn about America's education system?

- A) It provides a ladder of opportunity for the wealthy.
- B) It contributes little to the elimination of inequality.
- C) It has remained basically unchanged for generations.
- D) It has brought up generations of responsible citizens.

52. What is chiefly responsible for the undesirable performance of inner-city schools?

- A) Unqualified teachers. B) Lack of financial resources.
- C) Unfavorable learning environment. D) Subconscious racial discrimination.

53. What does the author think the union should do to win popular support?

- A) Assist the city government in reforming schools.
- B) Give constructive advice to inner-city schools.
- C) Demand higher pay for teachers. D) Help teachers improve teaching.

54. What is the finding of the gold standard study by Harvard and Columbia University scholars?

- A) Many inner-city school teachers are not equal to their jobs.
- B) A large proportion of inner-city children often miss classes.
- C) Many students are dissatisfied with their teachers.
- D) Student performance has a lot to do with teachers.

55. Why does the author say the Chicago union's demand is an insult to students?

- A) It protects incompetent teachers at the expense of students.
- B) It underestimates students' ability to tell good teachers from poor ones.
- C) It makes students feel that they are discriminated against in many ways.
- D) It totally ignores students' initiative in the learning process.

2016 年 12 月

第一套

Passage One

Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.

Any veteran nicotine addict will testify that fancy packaging plays no role in the decision to keep smoking. So, it is argued, stripping cartons of their branding will trigger no mass movement to quit.

But that isn't why the government - under pressure from cancer charities, health workers and the Labour party - has agreed to legislate for standardised packaging. The theory is that smoking should be stripped of any appeal to discourage new generations from starting in the first place. Plain packaging would be another step in the reclassification of cigarettes from inviting consumer products to narcotics(麻醉剂).

Naturally, the tobacco industry is violently opposed. No business likes to admit that it sells addictive poison as a lifestyle choice. That is why government has historically intervened, banning advertising, imposing health warnings and punitive(惩罚性的) duties. This approach has led over time to a fall in smoking with numbers having roughly halved since the 1970s. Evidence from Australia suggests plain packaging pushes society further along that road. Since tobacco is one of the biggest causes of premature death in the UK, a measure that tames the habit even by a fraction is worth trying.

So why has it taken so long? The Department of Health declared its intention to consider the move in November 2010 and consulted through 2012. But the plan was suspended in July 2013. It did not escape notice that a lobbying firm set up by Lynton Crosby, David Cameron's election campaign director, had previously acted for Philip Morris International. (The prime minister denied there was a connection between his new adviser's outside interests and the change in legislative programme.) In November 2013, after an unnecessary round of additional consultation, health minister Jane Ellison said the government was minded to proceed after all. Now we are told Members of Parliament (MPs) will have a free vote before parliament is dissolved in March.

Parliament has in fact already authorised the government to tame the tobacco trade. MPs voted overwhelmingly in favour of Labour amendments to the children and families bill last February that included the power to regulate for plain packaging. With sufficient will in Downing Street this would have been done already. But strength of will is the missing ingredient where Mr. Cameron and public health are concerned. His attitude to state intervention has looked confused ever since his bizarre 2006 lament(叹惜) that chocolate oranges placed seductively at supermarket check-outs fueled obesity.

The government has moved reluctantly into a sensible public health policy, but with such obvious over-cautiousness that any political credit due belongs to the opposition. Without sustained external pressure it seems certain Mr. Cameron would still be hooked on

the interests of big tobacco companies.

46. What do chain smokers think of cigarette packaging?

- A) Fancy packaging can help to engage new smokers.
- B) It has little to do with the quality or taste of cigarettes.
- C) Plain packaging discourages non-smokers from taking up smoking.
- D) It has little impact on their decision whether or not to quit smoking.

47. What has the UK government agreed to do concerning tobacco packaging?

- A) Pass a law to standardise cigarette packaging.
- B) Rid cigarette cartons of all advertisements.
- C) Subsidise companies to adopt plain packaging.
- D) Reclassify cigarettes according to packaging.

48. What has happened in Australia where plain packaging is implemented?

- A) Premature death rates resulting from smoking have declined.
- B) The number of smokers has dropped more sharply than in the UK.
- C) The sales of tobacco substitutes have increased considerably.
- D) Cigarette sales have been falling far more quickly than in the UK.

49. Why has it taken so long for the UK government to consider plain packaging?

- A) Prime Minister Cameron has been reluctant to take action.
- B) There is strong opposition from veteran nicotine addicts.
- C) Many Members of Parliament are addicted to smoking.
- D) Pressure from tobacco manufacturers remains strong.

50. What did Cameron say about chocolate oranges at supermarket checkouts?

- A) They fueled a lot of controversy.
- B) They attracted a lot of smokers.
- C) They made more British people obese.
- D) They had certain ingredients missing.

Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

What a waste of money! In return for an average of £44,000 of debt, students get an average of only 14 hours of lecture and tutorial time a week in Britain. Annual fees have risen from £1,000 to £9,000 in the last decade, but contact time at university has barely risen at all. And graduating doesn't even provide any guarantee of a decent job; six in ten graduates today are in non-graduate jobs.

No wonder it has become fashionable to denounce many universities as little more than elaborate con-tricks(骗术). There's a lot for students to complain about; the repayment threshold for paying back loans will be frozen for five years, meaning that lower-paid graduates have to start repaying their loans; and maintenance grants have been replaced by loans, meaning that students from poorer backgrounds face higher debt than those with wealthier parents.

Yet it still pays to go to university. If going to university doesn't work out, students pay very little - if any - of their tuition fees back; you only start repaying when you are earning £21,000 a year. Almost half of graduates - those who go on to earn less - will have a portion of their debt written off. It's not just the lectures and tutorials that are important. Education is

the sum of what students teach each other in between lectures and seminars. Students do not merely benefit while at university; studies show they go on to be healthier and happier than non-graduates, and also far more likely to vote.

Whatever your talents, it is extraordinarily difficult to get a leading job in most fields without having been to university. Recruiters circle elite universities like vultures(兀鷹). Many top firms will not even look at applications from those who lack a 2.1, i.e., an upper-second class degree, from an elite university. Students at university also meet those likely to be in leading jobs in the future, forming contacts for life. This might not be right, but school-leavers who fail to acknowledge as much risk making the wrong decision about going to university.

Perhaps the reason why so many universities offer their students so little is they know studying at a top university remains a brilliant investment even if you don't learn anything. Studying at university will only become less attractive if employers shift their focus away from where someone went to university - and there is no sign of that happening anytime soon. School-leavers may moan, but they have little choice but to embrace university and the student debt that comes with it.

51. What is the author's opinion of going to university?

- A) It is worthwhile after all. B) It is simply a waste of time.
- C) It is hard to say whether it is good or bad. D) It is too expensive for most young people.

52. What does the author say about the employment situation of British university graduates?

- A) Few of them are satisfied with the jobs they are offered.
- B) It usually takes a long time for them to find a decent job.
- C) Graduates from elite universities usually can get decent jobs.
- D) Most of them take jobs which don't require a college degree.

53. What does the author say is important for university students besides classroom instruction?

- A) Making sure to obtain an upper-second class degree.
- B) Practical skills they will need in their future careers.
- C) Interactions among themselves outside the classroom.
- D) Developing independent and creative thinking abilities.

54. What is said to be an advantage of going to university?

- A) Learning how to take risks in an ever-changing world.
- B) Meeting people who will be helpful to you in the future.
- C) Having opportunities of playing a leading role in society.
- D) Gaining up-to-date knowledge in science and technology.

55. What can we infer from the last paragraph?

- A) It is natural for students to make complaints about university education.
- B) Few students are willing to bear the burden of debt incurred at university.
- C) University education is becoming attractive to students who can afford it.
- D) The prestige of the university influences employers' recruitment decisions.

第二套

Passage One

Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.

The Paris climate agreement finalised in December last year heralded a new era for climate action. For the first time, the world's nations agreed to keep global warming well below 2°C.

This is vital for climate-vulnerable nations. Fewer than 4% of countries are responsible for more than half of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. In a study published in Nature Scientific Reports, we reveal just how deep this injustice runs.

Developed nations such as Australia, the United States, Canada, and European countries are essentially climate "free-riders": causing the majority of the problems through high greenhouse gas emissions, while incurring few of the costs such as climate change's impact on food and water. In other words, a few countries are benefiting enormously from the consumption of fossil fuels, while at the same time contributing disproportionately to the global burden of climate change.

On the flip side, there are many "forced riders", who are suffering from the climate change impacts despite having scarcely contributed to the problem. Many of the world's most climate-vulnerable countries, the majority of which are African or small island states, produce a very small quantity of emissions. This is much like a non-smoker getting cancer from second-hand smoke, while the heavy smoker is fortunate enough to smoke in good health.

The Paris agreement has been widely hailed as a positive step forward in addressing climate change for all, although the details on addressing "climate justice" can be best described as sketchy.

The goal of keeping global temperature rise "well below" 2°C is commendable but the emissions-reduction pledges submitted by countries leading up to the Paris talks are very unlikely to deliver on this.

More than \$100 billion in funding has been put on the table for supporting developing nations to reduce emissions. However, the agreement specifies that there is no formal distinction between developed and developing nations in their responsibility to cut emissions, effectively ignoring historical emissions. There is also very little detail on who will provide the funds or, importantly, who is responsible for their provision. Securing these funds, and establishing who is responsible for raising them will also be vital for the future of climate vulnerable countries.

The most climate-vulnerable countries in the world have contributed very little to creating the global disease from which they now suffer the most. There must urgently be a meaningful mobilisation of the policies outlined in the agreement if we are to achieve national emission reductions while helping the most vulnerable countries adapt to climate change.

And it is clearly up to the current generation of leaders from high-emitting nations to decide whether they want to be remembered as climate change tyrants or pioneers.

46. The author is critical of the Paris climate agreement because _____.
A) it is unfair to those climate-vulnerable nations
B) it aims to keep temperature rise below 2°C only
C) it is beneficial to only fewer than 4 % of countries
D) it burdens developed countries with the sole responsibility
47. Why does the author call some developed countries climate "free-riders"?
A) They needn't worry about the food and water they consume.
B) They are better able to cope with the global climate change.
C) They hardly pay anything for the problems they have caused.
D) They are free from the greenhouse effects attracting "forced riders".
48. Why does the author compare the "forced riders" to second-hand smokers?
A) They have little responsibility for public health problems.
B) They are vulnerable to unhealthy environmental conditions.
C) They have to bear consequences they are not responsible for.
D) They are unaware of the potential risks they are confronting.
49. What does the author say about the \$100 billion funding?
A) It will motivate all nations to reduce carbon emissions.
B) There is no final agreement on where it will come from.
C) There is no clarification of how the money will be spent.
D) It will effectively reduce greenhouse emissions worldwide.
50. What urgent action must be taken to realise the Paris climate agreement?
A) Encouraging high-emitting nations to take the initiative.
B) Calling on all the nations concerned to make joint efforts.
C) Pushing the current world leaders to come to a consensus.
D) Putting in effect the policies in the agreement at once.

Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

Teenagers at risk of depression, anxiety and suicide often wear their troubles like a neon(霓虹灯) sign. Their risky behaviors - drinking too much alcohol, using illegal drugs, smoking cigarettes and skipping school - can alert parents and teachers that serious problems are brewing.

But a new study finds that there's another group of adolescents who are in nearly as much danger of experiencing the same psychiatric symptoms; teens who use tons of media, don't get enough sleep and have a sedentary(不爱活动的) lifestyle.

Of course, that may sound like a description of every teenager on the planet. But the study warns that it is teenagers who engage in all three of these practices in the extreme who are truly in jeopardy. Because their behaviors are not usually seen as a red flag, these young people have been dubbed the "invisible risk" group by the study's authors.

"In some ways they're at greater risk of falling through the cracks," says researcher Vladimir Carli. "While most parents, teachers and clinicians would react to an adolescent using drugs or getting drunk, they may easily overlook teenagers who are engaging in

inconspicuous behaviors."

The study's authors surveyed 12,395 students and analyzed nine risk behaviors, including excessive alcohol use, illegal drug use, heavy smoking, high media use and truancy(逃学). Their aim was to determine the relationship between these risk behaviors and mental health issues in teenagers.

About 58% of the students demonstrated none or few of the risk behaviors. Some 13% scored high on all nine of the risk behaviors. And 29%, the "invisible risk" group, scored high on three in particular: They spent five hours a day or more on electronic devices. They slept six hours a night or less. And they neglected "other healthy activities."

The group that scored high on all nine of the risk behaviors was most likely to show symptoms of depression; in all, nearly 15% of this group reported being depressed, compared with just 4% of the low-risk group. But the invisible group wasn't far behind the high-risk set, with more than 13% of them exhibiting depression.

The findings caught Carli off guard. "We were very surprised," he says, "The high-risk group and low-risk group are obvious. But this third group was not only unexpected, it was so distinct and so large - nearly one third of our sample - that it became a key finding of the study."

Carli says that one of the most significant things about his study is that it provides new early-warning signs for parents, teachers and mental health-care providers. And early identification, support and treatment for mental health issues, he says, are the best ways to keep them from turning into full-blown disorders.

51. What does the author mean by saying "Teenagers at risk of depression, anxiety and suicide often wear their troubles like a neon sign" (Lines 1-2, Para, 1)?

- A) Mental problems can now be found in large numbers of teenagers.
- B) Teenagers' mental problems are getting more and more attention.
- C) Teenagers' mental problems are often too conspicuous not to be observed.
- D) Depression and anxiety are the most common symptoms of mental problems.

52. What is the finding of the new study?

- A) Teenagers' lifestyles have changed greatly in recent years.
- B) Many teenagers resort to drugs or alcohol for mental relief.
- C) Teenagers experiencing psychological problems tend to use a lot of media.
- D) Many hitherto unobserved youngsters may have psychological problems.

53. Why do the researchers refer to teens who use tons of media, don't get enough sleep and have a sedentary lifestyle as the "invisible risk" group?

- A) Their behaviors can be an invisible threat to society.
- B) Their behaviors do not constitute a warning signal.
- C) Their behaviors do not tend towards mental problems.
- D) Their behaviors can be found in almost all teenagers on earth.

54. What does the new study find about the invisible group?

- A) They are almost as liable to depression as the high-risk group.
- B) They suffer from depression without showing any symptoms.
- C) They do not often demonstrate risky behaviors as their peers.
- D) They do not attract the media attention the high-risk group does.

55. What is the significance of Vladimir Carli's study?

- A) It offers a new treatment for psychological problems among teenagers.
- B) It provides new early-warning signals for identifying teens in trouble.
- C) It may have found an ideal way to handle teenagers with behavioral problems.
- D) It sheds new light on how unhealthy behaviors trigger mental health problems.

第三套

Passage One

Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.

Dr. Donald Sadoway at MIT started his own battery company with the hope of changing the world's energy future. It's a dramatic endorsement for a technology most people think about only when their smartphone goes dark. But Sadoway isn't alone in trumpeting energy storage as a missing link to a cleaner, more efficient, and more equitable energy future.

Scientists and engineers have long believed in the promise of batteries to change the world. Advanced batteries are moving out of specialized markets and creeping into the mainstream, signaling a tipping point for forward-looking technologies such as electric cars and rooftop solar panels.

The ubiquitous(无所不在的) battery has already come a long way, of course. For better or worse, batteries make possible our mobile-first lifestyles, our screen culture, our increasingly globalized world. Still, as impressive as all this is, it may be trivial compared with what comes next. Having already enabled a communications revolution, the battery is now poised to transform just about everything else.

The wireless age is expanding to include not just our phones, tablets, and laptops, but also our cars, homes, and even whole communities. In emerging economies, rural communities are bypassing the wires and wooden poles that spread power. Instead, some in Africa and Asia are seeing their first lightbulbs illuminated by the power of sunlight stored in batteries.

Today, energy storage is a \$33 billion global industry that generates nearly 100 gigawatt-hours of electricity per year. By the end of the decade, it's expected to be worth over \$50 billion and generate 160 gigawatt-hours, enough to attract the attention of major companies that might not otherwise be interested in a decidedly pedestrian technology. Even utility companies, which have long viewed batteries and alternative forms of energy as a threat, are learning to embrace the technologies as enabling rather than disrupting.

Today's battery breakthroughs come as the world looks to expand modern energy access to the billion or so people without it, while also cutting back on fuels that warm the planet. Those simultaneous challenges appear less overwhelming with increasingly better answers to a centuries-old question: how to make power portable.

To be sure, the battery still has a long way to go before the nightly recharge completely replaces the weekly trip to the gas station. A battery-powered world comes with its own risks, too. What happens to the centralized electric grid, which took decades and billions of dollars to build, as more and more people become "prosumers," who produce and consume their

own energy onsite?

No one knows which - if any - battery technology will ultimately dominate, but one thing remains clear. The future of energy is in how we store it.

46. What does Dr. Sadoway think of energy storage?

- A) It involves the application of sophisticated technology.
- B) It is the direction energy development should follow.
- C) It will prove to be a profitable business. D) It is a technology benefiting everyone.

47. What is most likely to happen when advanced batteries become widely used?

- A) Mobile-first lifestyles will become popular.
- B) The globalization process will be accelerated.
- C) Communications will take more diverse forms.
- D) The world will undergo revolutionary changes.

48. In some rural communities of emerging economies, people have begun to _____.

- A) find digital devices simply indispensable
- B) communicate primarily by mobile phone
- C) light their homes with stored solar energy
- D) distribute power with wires and wooden poles

49. Utility companies have begun to realize that battery technologies _____.

- A) benefit their business B) transmit power faster
- C) promote innovation D) encourage competition

50. What does the author imply about the centralized electric grid?

- A) It might become a thing of the past. B) It might turn out to be a "prosumer".
- C) It will be easier to operate and maintain. D) It will have to be completely transformed.

Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

More than 100 years ago, American sociologist W.E.B. Du Bois was concerned that race was being used as a biological explanation for what he understood to be social and cultural differences between different populations of people. He spoke out against the idea of "white" and "black" as distinct groups, claiming that these distinctions ignored the scope of human diversity.

Science would favor Du Bois. Today, the mainstream belief among scientists is that race is a social construct without biological meaning. In an article published in the journal *Science*, four scholars say racial categories need to be phased out.

"Essentially, I could not agree more with the authors," said Svante Paabo, a biologist and director of the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Germany. In one example that demonstrated genetic differences were not fixed along racial lines, the full genomes(基因组) of James Watson and Craig Venter, two famous American scientists of European ancestry, were compared to that of a Korean scientist, Seong-Jin Kim. It turned out that Watson and Venter shared fewer variations in their genetic sequences than they each shared with Kim.

Michael Yudell, a professor of public health at Drexel University in Philadelphia, said that

modern genetics research is operating in a paradox: on the one hand, race is understood to be a useful tool to illuminate human genetic diversity, but on the other hand, race is also understood to be a poorly defined marker of that diversity.

Assumptions about genetic differences between people of different races could be particularly dangerous in a medical setting. "If you make clinical predictions based on somebody's race, you're going to be wrong a good chunk of the time," Yudell told Live Science. In the paper, he and his colleagues used the example of cystic fibrosis, which is underdiagnosed in people of African ancestry because it is thought of as a "white" disease.

So what other variables could be used if the racial concept is thrown out? Yudell said scientists need to get more specific with their language, perhaps using terms like "ancestry" or "population" that might more precisely reflect the relationship between humans and their genes, on both the individual and population level. The researchers also acknowledged that there are a few areas where race as a construct might still be useful in scientific research: as a political and social, but not biological, variable.

"While we argue phasing out racial terminology(术语) in the biological sciences, we also acknowledge that using race as a political or social category to study racism, although filled with lots of challenges, remains necessary given our need to understand how structural inequities and discrimination produce health disparities(差异) between groups." Yudell said.

51. Du Bois was opposed to the use of race as _____.

- A) a basis for explaining human genetic diversity
- B) an aid to understanding different populations
- C) an explanation for social and cultural differences
- D) a term to describe individual human characteristics

52. The study by Svante Paabo served as an example to show _____.

- A) modern genetics research is likely to fuel racial conflicts
- B) race is a poorly defined marker of human genetic diversity
- C) race as a biological term can explain human genetic diversity
- D) genetics research should consider social and cultural variables

53. The example of the disease cystic fibrosis underdiagnosed in people of African ancestry demonstrates that _____.

- A) it is absolutely necessary to put race aside in making diagnosis.
- B) it is important to include social variables in genetics research.
- C) racial categories for genetic diversity could lead to wrong clinical predictions.
- D) discrimination against black people may cause negligence in clinical treatment.

54. What is Yudell's suggestion to scientists?

- A) They be more precise with the language they use.
- B) They refrain from using politically sensitive terms.
- C) They throw out irrelevant concepts in their research.
- D) They examine all possible variables in their research.

55. What can be inferred from Yudell's remark in the last paragraph?

- A) Clinging to racism prolongs inequity and discrimination.
- B) Physiological disparities are quite striking among races.
- C) Doing away with racial discrimination is challenging.
- D) Racial terms are still useful in certain fields of study.

2017 年 6 月

第一套

Passage One

Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.

We live today indebted to McCardell, Cashin, Hawes, Wilkins, and Maxwell, and other women who liberated American fashion from the confines of Parisian design. Independence came in tying, wrapping, storing, harmonizing, and rationalizing that wardrobe. These designers established the modern dress code, letting playsuits and other active wear outfits suffice for casual clothing, allowing pants to enter the wardrobe, and prizing rationalism and versatility in dress, in contradiction to dressing for an occasion or allotment of the day. Fashion in America was logical and answerable to the will of the women who wore it. Implicitly or explicitly, American fashion addressed a democracy, whereas traditional Paris-based fashion was prescriptive and imposed on women, willing or not.

In an earlier time, American fashion had also followed the dictates of Paris, or even copied and pirated specific French designs. Designer sportswear was not modeled on that of Europe, as "modern art" would later be; it was genuinely invented and developed in America. Its designers were not high-end with supplementary lines. The design objective and the business commitment were to sportswear, and the distinctive traits were problem-solving ingenuity and realistic lifestyle applications. Ease of care was most important: summer dresses and outfits, in particular, were chiefly cotton, readily capable of being washed and pressed at home. Closings were simple, practical, and accessible, as the modern woman depended on no personal maid to dress her. American designers prized resourcefulness and the freedom of women who wore the clothing.

Many have argued that the women designers of this time were able to project their own clothing values into a new style. Of course, much of this argument in the 1930s-40s was advanced because there was little or no experience in justifying apparel(服装) on the basis of utility. If Paris was cast aside, the tradition of beauty was also to some degree slighted. Designer sportswear would have to be verified by a standard other than that of pure beauty; the emulation of a designer's life in designer sportswear was a crude version of this relationship. The consumer was ultimately to be mentioned as well, especially by the likes of Dorothy Shaver, who could point to the sales figures at Lord & Taylor.

Could utility alone justify the new ideas of the American designers? Fashion is often regarded as a pursuit of beauty, and some cherished fashion's trivial relationship to the fine arts. What the designers of the American sportswear proved was that fashion is a genuine design art, answering to the demanding needs of service. Of course these practical, insightful designers have determined the course of late twentieth-century fashion. They were the pioneers of gender equity, in their useful, adaptable clothing, which was both made for the masses and capable of self-expression.

46. What contribution did the women designers make to American fashion?
- A. They made some improvements on the traditional Parisian design.
 - B. They formulated a dress code with distinctive American features.
 - C. They came up with a brand new set of design procedures.
 - D. They made originality a top priority in their fashion design.
47. What do we learn about American designer sportswear?
- A. It imitated the European model.
 - B. It laid emphasis on women's beauty.
 - C. It represented genuine American art.
 - D. It was a completely new invention.
48. What characterized American designer sportswear?
- A. Pursuit of beauty.
 - B. Decorative closings.
 - C. Ease of care.
 - D. Fabric quality.
49. What occurred in the design of women's apparel in America during the 1930s-40s?
- A. A shift of emphasis from beauty to utility.
 - B. The emulation of traditional Parisian design.
 - C. A search for balance between tradition and novelty.
 - D. The involvement of more women in fashion design.
50. What do we learn about designers of American sportswear?
- A. They catered to the taste of the younger generation.
 - B. They radically changed people's concept of beauty.
 - C. They advocated equity between men and women.
 - D. They became rivals of their Parisian counterparts.

Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

Massive rubbish dumps and sprawling landfills constitute one of the more uncomfortable impacts that humans have on wildlife. They have led some birds to give up on migration. Instead of flying thousands of miles in search of food, they make the waste sites their winter feeding grounds.

Researchers in Germany used miniature GPS tags to track the migrations of 70 white storks(鸛) from different sites across Europe and Asia during the first five months of their lives. While many birds travelled along well-known routes to warmer climates, others stopped short and spent the winter on landfills, feeding on food waste, and the multitudes of insects that thrive on the dumps.

In the short-term, the birds seem to benefit from overwintering(过冬) on rubbish dumps. Andrea Flack of the Max Planck Institute found that birds following traditional migration routes were more likely to die than German storks that flew only as far as northern Morocco, and spent the winter there on rubbish dumps. "For the birds it's a very convenient way to get food. There are huge clusters of organic waste they can feed on," said Flack. The meals are not particularly appetising, or even safe. Much of the waste is discarded rotten meat, mixed in with other human debris such as plastic bags and old toys.

"It's very risky. The birds can easily eat pieces of plastic or rubber bands and they can die," said Flack. "And we don't know about the long-term consequences. They might eat something toxic and damage their health. We cannot estimate that yet."

The scientists tracked white storks from different colonies in Europe and Africa. The Russian, Greek and Polish storks flew as far as South Africa, while those from Spain, Tunisia and Germany flew only as far as the Sahel.

Landfill sites on the Iberian peninsula have long attracted local white storks, but all of the Spanish birds tagged in the study flew across the Sahara desert to the western Sahel. Writing in the journal, the scientists describe how the storks from Germany were clearly affected by the presence of waste sites, with four out of six birds that survived for at least five months overwintering on rubbish dumps in northern Morocco, instead of migrating to the Sahel.

Flack said it was too early to know whether the benefits of plentiful food outweighed the risks of feeding on landfills. But that's not the only uncertainty. Migrating birds affect ecosystems both at home and at their winter destinations, and disrupting the traditional routes could have unexpected side effects. White storks feed on locusts(蝗虫) and other insects that can become pests if their numbers get out of hand. "They provide a useful service," said Flack.

51. What is the impact of rubbish dumps on wildlife?

- A. They have forced white storks to search for safer winter shelters.
- B. They have seriously polluted the places where birds spend winter.
- C. They have accelerated the reproduction of some harmful insects.
- D. They have changed the previous migration habits of certain birds.

52. What do we learn about birds following the traditional migration routes?

- A. They can multiply at an accelerating rate.
- B. They can better pull through the winter.
- C. They help humans kill harmful insects.
- D. They are more likely to be at risk of dying.

53. What does Andrea Flack say about the birds overwintering on rubbish dumps?

- A. They may end up staying there permanently.
- B. They may eat something harmful.
- C. They may evolve new feeding habits.
- D. They may have trouble getting adequate food.

54. What can be inferred about the Spanish birds tagged in the study?

- A. They gradually lose the habit of migrating in winter.
- B. They prefer rubbish dumps far away to those at home.
- C. They are not attracted to the rubbish dumps on their migration routes.
- D. They join the storks from Germany on rubbish dumps in Morocco.

55. What is scientists' other concern about white storks feeding on landfills?

- A. The potential harm to the ecosystem.
- B. The genetic change in the stork species.
- C. The spread of epidemics to their homeland.
- D. The damaging effect on bio-diversity.

第二套

Passage One

Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.

Tennessee's technical and community colleges will not outsource(外包) management of their facilities to a private company, a decision one leader said was bolstered by an analysis

of spending at each campus.

In an email sent Monday to college presidents in the Tennessee Board of Regents system, outgoing Chancellor John Morgan said an internal analysis showed that each campus' spending on facilities management fell well below the industry standards identified by the state. Morgan said those findings - which included data from the system's 13 community colleges, 27 technical colleges and six universities - were part of the decision not to move forward with Governor Bill Haslam's proposal to privatize management of state buildings in an effort to save money.

"While these numbers are still being validated by the state, we feel any adjustments they might suggest will be immaterial," Morgan wrote to the presidents. "System institutions are operating very efficiently based on this analysis, raising the question of the value of pursuing a broad scale outsourcing initiative."

Worker's advocates have criticized Haslam's plan, saying it would mean some campus workers would lose their jobs or benefits. Haslam has said colleges would be free to opt in or out of the outsourcing plan, which has not been finalized.

Morgan notified the Haslam administration of his decision to opt out in a letter sent last week. That letter, which includes several concerns Morgan has with the plan, was originally obtained by The Commercial Appeal in Memphis.

In an email statement from the state's Office of Customer Focused Government, which is examining the possibility of outsourcing, spokeswoman Michelle R. Martin said officials were still working to analyze the data from the Board of Regents. Data on management expenses at the college system and in other state departments will be part of a "business justification" the state will use as officials deliberate the specifics of an outsourcing plan.

"The state's facilities management project team is still in the process of developing its business justification and expects to have that completed and available to the public at the end of February," Martin said. "At this time there is nothing to take action on since the analysis has yet to be completed."

Morgan's comments on outsourcing mark the second time this month that he has come out against one of Haslam's plans for higher education in Tennessee. Morgan said last week that he would retire at the end of January because of the governor's proposal to split off six universities of the Board of Regents system and create separate governing boards for each of them. In his resignation letter, Morgan called the reorganization "unworkable".

46. What do we learn about the decision of technical and community colleges in Tennessee?

- A. It is backed by a campus spending analysis.
- B. It has been flatly rejected by the governor.
- C. It has neglected their faculty's demands.
- D. It will improve their financial situation.

47. What does the campus spending analysis reveal?

- A. Private companies play a big role in campus management.
- B. Facilities management by colleges is more cost-effective.
- C. Facilities management has greatly improved in recent years.
- D. Colleges exercise full control over their own financial affairs.

48. Workers' supporters argue that Bill Haslam's proposal would _____.

- A. deprive colleges of the right to manage their facilities
- B. make workers less motivated in performing duties
- C. render a number of campus workers jobless

- D. lead to the privatization of campus facilities
49. What do we learn from the state spokeswoman's response to John Morgan's decision?
- A. The outsourcing plan is not yet finalized. B. The outsourcing plan will be implemented.
- C. The state officials are confident about the outsourcing plan.
- D. The college spending analysis justifies the outsourcing plan.
50. Why did John Morgan decide to resign?
- A. He had lost confidence in the Tennessee state government.
- B. He disagreed with the governor on higher education policies.
- C. He thought the state's outsourcing proposal was simply unworkable.
- D. He opposed the governor's plan to reconstruct the college board system.

Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

Beginning in the late sixteenth century, it became fashionable for young aristocrats to visit Paris, Venice, Florence, and above all, Rome, as the culmination(终极) of their classical education. Thus was born the idea of the Grand Tour, a practice which introduced Englishmen, Germans, Scandinavians, and also Americans to the art and culture of France and Italy for the next 300 years. Travel was arduous and costly throughout the period, possible only for a privileged class - the same that produced gentlemen scientists, authors, antique experts, and patrons of the arts.

The Grand Tourist was typically a young man with a thorough grounding in Greek and Latin literature as well as some leisure time, some means, and some interest in art. The German traveler Johann Winckelmann pioneered the field of art history with his comprehensive study of Greek and Roman sculpture; he was portrayed by his friend Anton Raphael Mengs at the beginning of his long residence in Rome. Most Grand Tourists, however, stayed for briefer periods and set out with less scholarly intentions, accompanied by a teacher or guardian, and expected to return home with souvenirs of their travels as well as an understanding of art and architecture formed by exposure to great masterpieces.

London was a frequent starting point for Grand Tourists, and Paris a compulsory destination; many traveled to the Netherlands, some to Switzerland and Germany, and a very few adventurers to Spain, Greece, or Turkey. The essential place to visit, however, was Italy. The British traveler Charles Thompson spoke for many Grand Tourists when in 1744 he described himself as "being impatiently desirous of viewing a country so famous in history, a country which once gave laws to the world, and which is at present the greatest school of music and painting, contains the noblest productions of sculpture and architecture, and is filled with cabinets of rarities, and collections of all kinds of historical relics". Within Italy, the great focus was Rome, whose ancient ruins and more recent achievements were shown to every Grand Tourist. Panini's Ancient Rome and Modern Rome represent the sights most prized, including celebrated Greco-Roman statues and views of famous ruins, fountains, and churches. Since there were few museums anywhere in Europe before the close of the eighteenth century, Grand Tourists often saw paintings and sculptures by gaining admission to private collections, and many were eager to acquire examples of Greco-Roman and Italian

art for their own collections. In England, where architecture was increasingly seen as an aristocratic pursuit, noblemen often applied what they learned from the villas of Palladio in the Veneto and the evocative(唤起回忆的) ruins of Rome to their own country houses and gardens.

51. What is said about the Grand Tour?

- A. It was fashionable among young people of the time.
- B. It was unaffordable for ordinary people.
- C. It produced some famous European artists.
- D. It made a compulsory part of college education.

52. What did Grand Tourists have in common?

- A. They had much geographic knowledge. B. They were courageous and venturesome.
- C. They were versed in literature and interested in art.
- D. They had enough travel and outdoor-life experience.

53. How did Grand Tourists benefit from their travel?

- A. They found inspiration in the world's greatest masterpieces.
- B. They got a better understanding of early human civilization.
- C. They developed an interest in the origin of modern art forms.
- D. They gained some knowledge of classical art and architecture.

54. Why did many Grand Tourists visit the private collections?

- A. They could buy unique souvenirs there to take back home.
- B. Europe hardly had any museums before the 19th century.
- C. They found the antiques there more valuable.
- D. Private collections were of greater variety.

55. How did the Grand Tour influence the architecture in England?

- A. There appeared more and more Roman-style buildings.
- B. Many aristocrats began to move into Roman-style villas.
- C. Aristocrats' country houses all had Roman-style gardens.
- D. Italian architects were hired to design houses and gardens.

第三套

Passage One

Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.

Open data sharers are still in the minority in many fields. Although many researchers broadly agree that public access to raw data would accelerate science, most are reluctant to post the results of their own labors online.

Some communities have agreed to share online - geneticists, for example, post DNA sequences at the GenBank repository(库), and astronomers are accustomed to accessing images of galaxies and stars from, say, the Sloan Digital Sky Survey, a telescope that has observed some 500 million objects - but these remain the exception, not the rule. Historically, scientists have objected to sharing for many reasons: it is a lot of work; until

recently, good databases did not exist; grant funders were not pushing for sharing; it has been difficult to agree on standards for formatting data; and there is no agreed way to assign credit for data.

But the barriers are disappearing, in part because journals and funding agencies worldwide are encouraging scientists to make their data public. Last year, the Royal Society in London said in its report that scientists need to "shift away from a research culture where data is viewed as a private preserve". Funding agencies note that data paid for with public money should be public information, and the scientific community is recognizing that data can now be shared digitally in ways that were not possible before. To match the growing demand, services are springing up to make it easier to publish research products online and enable other researchers to discover and cite them.

Although calls to share data often concentrate on the moral advantages of sharing, the practice is not purely altruistic(利他的). Researchers who share get plenty of personal benefits, including more connections with colleagues, improved visibility and increased citations. The most successful sharers - those whose data are downloaded and cited the most often - get noticed, and their work gets used. For example, one of the most popular data sets on multidisciplinary repository Dryad is about wood density around the world; it has been downloaded 5,700 times. Co-author Amy Zanne thinks that users probably range from climate-change researchers wanting to estimate how much carbon is stored in biomass, to foresters looking for information on different grades of timber. "I'd much prefer to have my data used by the maximum number of people to ask their own questions," she says. "It's important to allow readers and reviewers to see exactly how you arrive at your results. Publishing data and code allows your science to be reproducible."

Even people whose data are less popular can benefit. By making the effort to organize and label files so others can understand them, scientists become more organized and better disciplined themselves, thus avoiding confusion later on.

46. What do many researchers generally accept?

- A. It is imperative to protect scientists' patents.
- B. Repositories are essential to scientific research.
- C. Open data sharing is most important to medical science.
- D. Open data sharing is conducive to scientific advancement.

47. What is the attitude of most researchers towards making their own data public?

- A. Opposed. B. Ambiguous. C. Liberal. D. Neutral.

48. According to the passage, what might hinder open data sharing?

- A. The fear of massive copying. B. The lack of a research culture.
- C. The belief that research data is private intellectual property.
- D. The concern that certain agencies may make a profit out of it.

49. What helps lift some of the barriers to open data sharing?

- A. The ever-growing demand for big data. B. The advancement of digital technology.
- C. The changing attitude of journals and funders.
- D. The trend of social and economic development.

50. Dryad serves as an example to show how open data sharing _____.

- A. is becoming increasingly popular B. benefits sharers and users alike
- C. makes researchers successful D. saves both money and labor

Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

Macy's reported its sales plunged 5.2% in November and December at stores open more than a year, a disappointing holiday season performance that capped a difficult year for a department store chain facing wide-ranging challenges. Its flagship stores in major U.S. cities depend heavily on international tourist spending, which shrank at many retailers due to a strong dollar. Meanwhile, Macy's has simply struggled to lure consumers who are more interested in spending on travel or dining out than on new clothes or accessories.

The company blamed much of the poor performance in November and December on unseasonably warm weather. "About 80% of our company's year-over-year declines in comparable sales can be attributed to shortfalls(短缺) in cold-weather goods," said chief executive Teny Lundgren in a press release. This prompted the company to cut its forecasts for the full fourth quarter.

However, it's clear that Macy's believes its troubles run deeper than a temporary aberration(偏离) off the thermometer. The retail giant said the poor financial performance this year has pushed it to begin implementing \$400 million in cost-cutting measures. The company pledged to cut 600 back-office positions, though some 150 workers in those roles would be reassigned to other jobs. It also plans to offer "voluntary separation" packages to 165 senior executives. It will slash staffing at its fleet of 770 stores, a move affecting some 3,000 employees.

The retailer also announced the locations of 36 stores it will close in early 2016. The company had previously announced the planned closures, but had not said which locations would be affected. None of the chain's stores in the Washington metropolitan area are to be closed.

Macy's has been moving aggressively to try to remake itself for a new era of shopping. It has plans to open more locations of Macy's Backstage, a newly-developed off-price concept which might help it better compete with ambitious T. J. Maxx. It's also pushing ahead in 2016 with an expansion of Bluemercury, the beauty chain it bought last year. At a time when young beauty shoppers are often turning to Sephora or Ulta instead of department store beauty counters, Macy's hopes Bluemercury will help strengthen its position in the category.

One relative bright spot for Macy's during the holiday season was the online channel, where it rang up "double-digit" increases in sales and a 25% increase in the number of orders it filled. That relative strength would be consistent with what was seen in the wider retail industry during the early part of the holiday season. While Thanksgiving, Black Friday and Cyber Monday all saw record spending online, in-store sales plunged over the holiday weekend.

51. What does the author say about the shrinking spending of international tourists in the U.S.?

- A. It is attributable to the rising value of the U.S. dollar.
- B. It is a direct result of the global economic recession.
- C. It reflects a shift of their interest in consumer goods.

D. It poses a potential threat to the retail business in the U.S.

52. What does Macy's believe about its problems?

A. They can be solved with better management.

B. They cannot be attributed to weather only.

C. They are not as serious in its online stores.

D. They call for increased investments.

53. In order to cut costs, Macy's decided to _____.

A. cut the salary of senior executives B. relocate some of its chain stores

C. adjust its promotion strategies D. reduce the size of its staff

54. Why does Macy's plan to expand Bluemercury in 2016?

A. To experiment on its new business concept.

B. To focus more on beauty products than clothing.

C. To promote sales of its products by lowering prices.

D. To be more competitive in sales of beauty products.

55. What can we learn about Macy's during the holiday season?

A. Sales dropped sharply in its physical stores. B. Its retail sales exceeded those of T. J. Maxx.

C. It helped Bluemercury establish its position worldwide.

D. It filled its stores with abundant supply of merchandise.

2017 年 12 月

第一套

Passage One

Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.

In the beginning of the movie *I, Robot*, a robot has to decide whom to save after two cars plunge into the water - Del Spooner or a child. Even though Spooner screams "Save her! Save her!" the robot rescues him because it calculates that he has a 45 percent chance of survival compared to Sarah's 11 percent. The robot's decision and its calculated approach raise an important question: would humans make the same choice? And which choice would we want our robotic counterparts to make?

Isaac Asimov evaded the whole notion of morality in devising his three laws of robotics, which hold that 1. Robots cannot harm humans or allow humans to come to harm; 2. Robots must obey humans, except where the order would conflict with law 1; and 3. Robots must act in self-preservation, unless doing so conflicts with laws 1 or 2. These laws are programmed into Asimov's robots - they don't have to think, judge, or value. They don't have to like humans or believe that hurting them is wrong or bad. They simply don't do it.

The robot who rescues Spooner's life in *I, Robot* follows Asimov's zeroth law: robots cannot harm humanity (as opposed to individual humans) or allow humanity to come to harm - an expansion of the first law that allows robots to determine what's in the greater good. Under the first law, a robot could not harm a dangerous gunman, but under the zeroth law, a robot could kill the gunman to save others.

Whether it's possible to program a robot with safeguards such as Asimov's laws is debatable. A word such as "harm" is vague (what about emotional harm? Is replacing a human employee harm?), and abstract concepts present coding problems. The robots in Asimov's fiction expose complications and loopholes in the three laws, and even when the laws work, robots still have to assess situations.

Assessing situations can be complicated. A robot has to identify the players, conditions, and possible outcomes for various scenarios. It's doubtful that a computer program can do that - at least, not without some undesirable results. A roboticist at the Bristol Robotics Laboratory programmed a robot to save human proxies(替身) called "H-bots" from danger. When one H-bot headed for danger, the robot successfully pushed it out of the way. But when two H-bots became imperiled, the robot clocked 42 percent of the time, unable to decide which to save and letting them both "die." The experiment highlights the importance of morality: without it, how can a robot decide whom to save or what's best for humanity, especially if it can't calculate survival odds?

46. What question does the example in the movie raise?

- A) Whether robots can reach better decisions. B) Whether robots follow Asimov's zeroth law.
C) How robots may make bad judgments. D) How robots should be programmed.

47. What does the author think of Asimov's three laws of robotics?
- A) They are apparently divorced from reality.
 - B) They did not follow the coding system of robotics.
 - C) They laid a solid foundation for robotics.
 - D) They did not take moral issues into consideration.
48. What does the author say about Asimov's robots?
- A) They know what is good or bad for human beings.
 - B) They are programmed not to hurt human beings.
 - C) They perform duties in their owners' best interest.
 - D) They stop working when a moral issue is involved.
49. What does the author want to say by mentioning the word "harm" in Asimov's laws?
- A) Abstract concepts are hard to program.
 - B) It is hard for robots to make decisions.
 - C) Robots may do harm in certain situations.
 - D) Asimov's laws use too many vague terms.
50. What has the roboticist at the Bristol Robotics Laboratory found in his experiment?
- A) Robots can be made as intelligent as human beings someday.
 - B) Robots can have moral issues encoded into their programs.
 - C) Robots can have trouble making decisions in complex scenarios.
 - D) Robots can be programmed to perceive potential perils.

Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

Our world now moves so fast that we seldom stop to see just how far we have come in just a few years. The latest iPhone 6s, for example, has a dual-core processor and fits nicely into your pocket. By comparison, you would expect to find a technological specification like this on your standard laptop in an office anywhere in the world.

It's no wonder that new applications for the Internet of Things are moving ahead fast when almost every new device we buy has a plug on the end of it or a wireless connection to the internet. Soon, our current smartphone lifestyle will expand to create our own smart home lifestyle too.

All researches agree that close to 25 billion devices, things and sensors will be connected by 2020 which incidentally is also the moment that Millennials(千禧一代) are expected to make up 75 percent of our overall workforce, and the fully connected home will become a reality for large numbers of people worldwide.

However, this is just the tip of the proverbial iceberg as smart buildings and even cities increasingly become the norm as leaders and business owners begin to wake up to the massive savings that technology can deliver through connected sensors and new forms of automation coupled with intelligent energy and facilities management.

Online security cameras, intelligent lighting and a wealth of sensors that control both temperature and air quality are offering an unprecedented level of control, efficiency, and improvements to what were once classed necessary costs when running a business or managing a large building.

We can expect that the ever-growing list of devices, systems and environments remain

connected, always online and talking to each other. The big benefit will not only be in the housing of this enormous and rapidly growing amount of data, but will also be in the ability to run real time data analytics to extract actionable and ongoing knowledge.

The biggest and most exciting challenge of this technology is how to creatively leverage this ever-growing amount of data to deliver cost savings, improvements and tangible benefits to both businesses and citizens of these smart cities.

The good news is that most of this technology is already invented. Let's face it, it wasn't too long ago that the idea of working from anywhere and at anytime was some form of a distant Utopian(乌托邦式的) dream, and yet now we can perform almost any office-based task from any location in the world as long as we have access to the internet.

It's time to wake up to the fact that making smart buildings, cities and homes will dramatically improve our quality of life in the years ahead.

51. What does the example of iPhone 6s serve to show?

- A) The huge capacity of the smartphones people now use.
- B) The widespread use of smartphones all over the world.
- C) The huge impact of new technology on people's everyday life.
- D) The rapid technological progress in a very short period of time.

52. What can we expect to see by the year 2020?

- A) Apps for the Internet of Things. B) The popularization of smart homes.
- C) The emergence of Millennials. D) Total globalization of the world.

53. What will business owners do when they become aware of the benefits of the Internet of Things?

- A) Employ fewer workers in their operations. B) Gain automatic control of their businesses.
- C) Invest in more smart buildings and cities. D) Embrace whatever new technology there is.

54. What is the most exciting challenge when we possess more and more data?

- A) How to turn it to profitable use. B) How to do real time data analysis.
- C) How to link the actionable systems. D) How to devise new ways to store it.

55. What does the author think about working from anywhere and at anytime?

- A) It is feasible with a connection to the internet.
- B) It will thrive in smart buildings, cities and homes.
- C) It is still a distant Utopian dream for ordinary workers.
- D) It will deliver tangible benefits to both boss and worker.

第二套

Passage One

Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.

You may have heard that Coca-Cola once contained an ingredient capable of sparking particular devotion in consumers: cocaine. The "Coca" in the name referred to the extracts of coca leaf that the drink's originator, chemist John Pemberton, mixed with his sugary syrup(浆汁). At the time, coca leaf extract mixed with wine was a common tonic(滋补品), and

Pemberton's sweet brew was a way to get around local laws prohibiting the sale of alcohol. But the other half of the name presents another ingredient, less infamous(名声不好的), perhaps, but also strangely potent: the kola nut.

In West Africa, people have long chewed kola nuts as stimulants, because they contain caffeine that also occurs naturally in tea, coffee, and chocolate. They also have heart stimulants.

Historian Paul Lovejoy relates that the cultivation of kola nuts in West Africa is hundreds of years old. The leafy, spreading trees were planted on graves and as part of traditional rituals. Even though the nuts, which need to stay moist, can be somewhat delicate to transport, traders carried them hundreds of miles throughout the forests and grasslands.

Europeans did not know of them until the 1500s, when Portuguese ships arrived on the coast of what is now Sierra Leone. And while the Portuguese took part in the trade, ferrying nuts down the coast along with other goods, by 1620, when English explorer Richard Jobson made his way up the Gambia, the nuts were still peculiar to his eyes.

By the late 19th century, kola nuts were being shipped by the tonne to Europe and the US. Many made their way into medicines, intended as a kind of energy boost. One such popular medicinal drink was Vin Mariani, a French product consisting of coca extract mixed with red wine. It was created by a French chemist, Angelo Mariani, in 1863. So when Pemberton created his drink, it represented an ongoing trend. When cocaine eventually fell from grace as a beverage ingredient, kola-extract colas became popular.

The first year it was available, Coca-Cola averaged nine servings a day across all the Atlanta soda fountains where it was sold. As it grew more popular, the company sold rights to bottle the soda, so it could travel easily. Today about 1.9 billion Cokes are purchased daily. It's become so iconic that attempts to change its taste in 1985 - sweetening it in a move projected to boost sales - proved disastrous, with widespread anger from consumers. "Coca-Cola Classic" returned to store shelves just three months after the "New Coke" was released.

These days, the Coca-Cola recipe is a closely guarded secret. But it's said to no longer contain kola nut extract, relying instead on artificial imitations to achieve the flavour.

46. What do we learn about chemist John Pemberton?

- A) He used a strangely potent ingredient in a food supplement.
- B) He created a drink containing alcohol without breaking law.
- C) He became notorious because of the coca drink he developed.
- D) He risked breaking local law to make a drink with coca leaves.

47. What does the passage say about kola nuts?

- A) Their commercial value was first discovered by Portuguese settlers.
- B) They contain some kind of energy boost not found in any other food.
- C) Many were shipped to Europe in the late 19th century for medicinal use.
- D) They were strange to the Europeans when first imported from West Africa.

48. How come kola-extract colas became popular?

- A) Cocaine had become notorious.
- B) Alcoholic drinks were prohibited.
- C) Fountains were set up to sell them.
- D) Rights were sold to bottle the soda.

49. What is known about the taste of Coca-Cola?

- A) It was so designed as to create addiction in consumers.

- B) It still relies on traditional kola nut extract.
 - C) It has become more popular among the old.
 - D) It has remained virtually unchanged since its creation.
50. What is the passage mainly about?
- A) The evolution of Coca-Cola. B) The success story of Coca-Cola.
 - C) The medicinal value of Coca-Cola. D) The business strategy of Coca-Cola.

Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

Twenty years ago, the Urban Land Institute defined the two types of cities that dominated the US landscape: smaller cities that operated around standard 9-5 business hours and large metropolitan areas that ran all 24 hours of the day. Analyzing and comparing cities using the lens of this basic divide gives interesting context to how investment capital flows and housing prices have shifted.

In recent years, many mid-sized cities have begun to adopt a middle-of-the-road approach incorporating the excitement and opportunity of large cities with small cities' quiet after midnight. These 18-hour cities are beginning to make waves in real estate rankings and attract more real estate investment. What is underlying this new movement in real estate, and why do these cities have so much appeal?

18-hour cities combine the best of 24-hour and 9-5 cities, which contributes to downtown revitalization. For decades, many downtown cores in small to mid-sized cities were abandoned after work hours by workers who lived in the suburbs. Movement out of city centers was widespread, and downtown tenants were predominantly made up of the working pool. This generated little commerce for downtown businesses in the evenings, which made business and generating tax revenue for municipal upkeep difficult. With the rise of a new concept in urban planning that aims to make life easier and more convenient, however, increasing popularity for urban areas that eased the real estate pushes, in major cities like San Francisco or New York, has inspired a type of forward thinking urbanity and in smaller cities.

Transforming downtown areas so that they incorporate modern housing and improved walkability to local restaurants, retail, and entertainment - especially when combined with improved infrastructure for cyclists and public transit - makes them appeal to a more affluent demographic. These adjustments encourage employers in the knowledge and talent industries to keep their offices downtown. Access to foot traffic and proximity to transit allow the type of entertainment-oriented businesses such as bars and restaurants to stay open later, which attracts both younger, creative workers and baby boomers nearing retirement alike. Because of their smaller size, most keep hours that allow people to enjoy themselves, then have some quiet after midnight, as opposed to large major cities like New York, where the buzz of activity is ongoing.

These 18-hour cities are rapidly on the rise and offer great opportunities for homeowner investment. In many of these cities such as Denver, a diverse and vigorous economy attracted to the urban core has offered stable employment for residents. The right

urban mix has propped up home occupancy, increased property values, and attracted significant investment capital.

51. What do we learn about American cities twenty years ago?

- A) They were divided into residential and business areas.
- B) Their housing prices were linked with their prosperity.
- C) There was a clear divide between large and small cities.
- D) They were places where large investment capital flowed.

52. What can be inferred from the passage about 18-hour cities?

- A) They especially appeal to small businesses.
- B) They have seen a rise in property prices.
- C) They have replaced quiet with excitement.
- D) They have changed America's landscape.

53. Years ago, many downtown cores in small to mid-sized cities _____.

- A) had hardly any business activity
- B) were crowded in business hours
- C) exhibited no signs of prosperity
- D) looked deserted in the evenings

54. What characterizes the new downtown areas in 18-hour cities?

- A) A sudden emergence of the knowledge industry.
- B) Flooding in of large crowds of migrant workers.
- C) Modernized housing and improved infrastructure.
- D) More comfortable life and greater upward mobility.

55. What have 18-hour cities brought to the local residents?

- A) More chances for promotion.
- B) Healthier living environment.
- C) Greater cultural diversity.
- D) Better job opportunities.

第三套

Passage One

Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.

At the base of a mountain in Tanzania's Gregory Rift, Lake Natron burns bright red, surrounded by the remains of animals that were unfortunate enough to fall into the salty water. Bats, swallows and more are chemically preserved in the pose in which they perished, sealed in the deposits of sodium carbonate in the water. The lake's landscape is bizarre and deadly - and made even more so by the fact that it's the place where nearly 75 percent of the world's flamingos(火烈鸟) are born.

The water is so corrosive that it can burn the skin and eyes of unadapted animals. Flamingos, however, are the only species that actually makes life in the midst of all that death. Once every three or four years, when conditions are right, the lake is covered with the pink birds as they stop flight to breed. Three-quarters of the world's flamingos fly over from other salt lakes in the Rift Valley and nest on salt-crystal islands that appear when the water is at a specific level - too high and the birds can't build their nests, too low and predators can move briskly across the lake bed and attack. When the water hits the right level, the baby birds are kept safe from predators by a corrosive ditch.

"Flamingos have evolved very leathery skin on their legs so they can tolerate the salt

water," says David Harper, a professor at the University of Leicester. "Humans cannot, and would die if their legs were exposed for any length of time." So far this year, water levels have been too high for the flamingos to nest.

Some fish, too, have had limited success vacationing at the lake as less salty lagoons(泻湖) form on the outer edges from hot springs flowing into Lake Natron. Three species of tilapia(罗非鱼) thrive there part-time. "Fish have a refuge in the streams and can expand into the lagoons when the lake is low and the lagoons are separate," Harper said. "All the lagoons join when the lake is high and fish must retreat to their stream refuges or die." Otherwise, no fish are able to survive in the naturally toxic lake.

This unique ecosystem may soon be under pressure. The Tanzanian government has once again started mining the lake for soda ash, used for making chemicals, glass and detergents. Although the planned operation will be located more than 40 miles away, drawing the soda ash in through pipelines, conservationists worry it could still upset the natural water cycle and breeding grounds. For now, though, life prevails - even in a lake that kills almost everything it touches.

46. What can we learn about Lake Natron?

- A) It is simply uninhabitable for most animals.
- B) It remains little known to the outside world.
- C) It is a breeding ground for a variety of birds.
- D) It makes an ideal habitat for lots of predators.

47. Flamingos nest only when the lake water is at a specific level so that their babies can _____.

- A) find safe shelter more easily
- B) grow thick feathers on their feet
- C) stay away from predators
- D) get accustomed to the salty water

48. Flamingos in the Rift Valley are unique in that _____.

- A) they can move swiftly across lagoons
- B) they can survive well in salty water
- C) they breed naturally in corrosive ditches
- D) they know where and when to nest

49. Why can certain species of tilapia sometimes survive around Lake Natron?

- A) They can take refuge in the less salty waters.
- B) They can flee quick enough from predators.
- C) They can move freely from lagoon to lagoon.
- D) They can stand the heat of the spring water.

50. What may be the consequence of Tanzanian government's planned operation?

- A) The accelerated extinction of flamingos.
- B) The change of flamingos' migration route.
- C) The overmining of Lake Natron's soda ash.
- D) The disruption of Lake Natron's ecosystem.

Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

It is the season for some frantic last-minute math - across the country, employees of all stripes are counting backward in an attempt to figure out just how much paid time-off they have left in their reserves. More of them, though, will skip those calculations altogether and just power through the holidays into 2017: More than half of American workers don't use up

all of their allotted vacation days each year.

Not so long ago, people would have turned up their noses at that kind of dedication to the job. As marketing professors Silvia Bellezza, Neeru Paharia, and Anat Keinan recently explained in Harvard Business Review (HBR), leisure time was once seen as an indicator of high social status, something attainable only for those at the top. Since the middle of the 20th century, though, things have turned the opposite way - these days, punishing hours at your desk, rather than days off, are seen as the mark of someone important.

In a series of several experiments, the researchers illustrated just how much we've come to admire busyness, or at least the appearance of it. Volunteers read two passages, one about a man who led a life of leisure and another about a man who was over-worked and over-scheduled; when asked to determine which of the two had a higher social status, the majority of the participants said the latter. The same held true for people who used products that implied they were short on time: In one experiment, for example, customers of the grocery-delivery service Peapod were seen as of higher status than people who shopped at grocery stores that were equally expensive; in another, people wearing wireless headphones were considered further up on the social ladder than those wearing regular headphones, even when both were just used to listen to music.

In part, the authors wrote in HBR, this pattern may have to do with the way work itself has changed over the past several decades.

We think that the shift from leisure-as-status to busyness-as-status may be linked to the development of knowledge-intensive economics. In such economies, individuals who possess the human capital characteristics that employers or clients value (e.g., competence and ambition) are expected to be in high demand and short supply on the job market. Thus, by telling others that we are busy and working all the time, we are implicitly suggesting that we are sought after, which enhances our perceived status.

Even if you feel tempted to sacrifice your own vacation days for fake busyness, though, at least consider leaving your weekends unscheduled. It's for your own good.

51. What do most employees plan to do towards the end of the year?

- A) Go for a vacation. B) Keep on working.
- C) Set an objective for next year. D) Review the year's achievements.

52. How would people view dedication to work in the past?

- A) They would regard it as a matter of course. B) They would consider it a must for success.
- C) They would look upon it with contempt. D) They would deem it a trick of businessmen.

53. What did the researchers find through a series of experiments?

- A) The busier one appears, the more respect one earns.
- B) The more one works, the more one feels exploited.
- C) The more knowledge one has, the more competent one will be.
- D) The higher one's status, the more vacation time one will enjoy.

54. What may account for the change of people's attitude towards being busy?

- A) The fast pace of life in modern society. B) The fierce competition in the job market.
- C) The widespread use of computer technology.
- D) The role of knowledge in modern economy.

55. What does the author advise us to do at the end of the passage?

- A) Schedule our time properly for efficiency. B) Plan our weekends in a meaningful way.

C) Find time to relax however busy we are. D) Avoid appearing busy when we are not.

2018 年 6 月

第一套

Passage One

Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.

The Ebro Delta, in Spain, famous as a battleground during the Spanish Civil War, is now the setting for a different contest, one that is pitting rice farmers against two enemies: the rice-eating giant apple snail, and rising sea levels. What happens here will have a bearing on the future of European rice production and the overall health of southern European wetlands.

Located on the Mediterranean just two hours south of Barcelona, the Ebro Delta produces 120 million kilograms of rice a year, making it one of the continent's most important rice-growing areas. As the sea creeps into these fresh-water marshes, however, rising salinity(盐分) is hampering rice production. At the same time, this sea-water also kills off the greedy giant apple snail, an introduced pest that feeds on young rice plants. The most promising strategy has become to harness one foe against the other.

The battle is currently being waged on land, in greenhouses at the University of Barcelona. Scientists working under the banner "Project Neurice" are seeking varieties of rice that can withstand the increasing salinity without losing the absorbency that makes European rice ideal for traditional Spanish and Italian dishes.

"The project has two sides," says Xavier Serrat, Neurice project manager and researcher at the University of Barcelona, "the short-term fight against the snail, and a mid- to long-term fight against climate change. But the snail has given the project greater urgency."

Originally from South America, the snails were accidentally introduced into the Ebro Delta by Global Aquatic Technologies, a company that raised the snails for fresh-water aquariums(水族馆), but failed to prevent their escape. For now, the giant apple snail's presence in Europe is limited to the Ebro Delta. But the snail continues its march to new territory, says Serrat. "The question is not whether it will reach other rice-growing areas of Europe, but when."

Over the next year and a half investigators will test the various strains of salt-tolerant rice they've bred. In 2018, farmers will plant the varieties with the most promise in the Ebro Delta and Europe's other two main rice-growing regions - along the Po in Italy, and France's Rhone. A season in the field will help determine which, if any, of the varieties are ready for commercialization.

As an EU-funded effort, the search for salt-tolerant varieties of rice is taking place in all three countries. Each team is crossbreeding a local European short-grain rice with a long-grain Asian variety that carries the salt-resistant gene. The scientists are breeding successive generations to arrive at varieties that incorporate salt tolerance but retain about 97 percent of the European rice genome(基因组).

46. Why does the author mention the Spanish Civil War at the beginning of the passage?
- A. It had great impact on the life of Spanish rice farmers.
 - B. It is of great significance in the records of Spanish history.
 - C. Rice farmers in the Ebro Delta are waging a battle of similar importance.
 - D. Rice farmers in the Ebro Delta are experiencing as hard a time as in the war.
47. What may be the most effective strategy for rice farmers to employ in fighting their enemies?
- A. Striking the weaker enemy first. B. Killing two birds with one stone.
 - C. Eliminating the enemy one by one. D. Using one evil to combat the other.
48. What do we learn about "Project Neurice"?
- A. Its goals will have to be realized at a cost. B. It aims to increase the yield of Spanish rice.
 - C. Its immediate priority is to bring the pest under control.
 - D. It tries to kill the snails with the help of climate change.
49. What does Neurice project manager say about the giant apple snail?
- A. It can survive only on southern European wetlands.
 - B. It will invade other rice-growing regions of Europe.
 - C. It multiplies at a speed beyond human imagination.
 - D. It was introduced into the rice fields on purpose.
50. What is the ultimate goal of the EU-funded program?
- A. Cultivating ideal salt-resistant rice varieties.
 - B. Increasing the absorbency of the Spanish rice.
 - C. Introducing Spanish rice to the rest of Europe.
 - D. Popularizing the rice crossbreeding technology.

Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

Photography was once an expensive, laborious ordeal reserved for life's greatest milestones. Now, the only apparent cost to taking infinite photos of something as common as a meal is the space on your hard drive and your dining companion's patience.

But is there another cost, a deeper cost, to documenting a life experience instead of simply enjoying it? "You hear that you shouldn't take all these photos and interrupt the experience, and it's bad for you, and we're not living in the present moment," says Kristin Diehl, associate professor of marketing at the University of Southern California Marshall School of Business.

Diehl and her fellow researchers wanted to find out if that was true, so they embarked on a series of nine experiments in the lab and in the field testing people's enjoyment in the presence or absence of a camera. The results, published in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, surprised them. Taking photos actually makes people enjoy what they're doing more, not less.

"What we find is you actually look at the world slightly differently, because you're looking for things you want to capture, that you may want to hang onto," Diehl explains. "That gets people more engaged in the experience, and they tend to enjoy it more."

Take sightseeing. In one experiment, nearly 200 participants boarded a double-decker bus for a tour of Philadelphia. Both bus tours forbade the use of cell phones but one tour provided digital cameras and encouraged people to take photos. The people who took photos enjoyed the experience significantly more, and said they were more engaged, than those who didn't.

Snapping a photo directs attention, which heightens the pleasure you get from whatever you're looking at, Diehl says. It works for things as boring as archaeological(考古的) museums, where people were given eye-tracking glasses and instructed either to take photos or not. "People look longer at things they want to photograph," Diehl says. They report liking the exhibits more, too.

To the relief of Instagrammers(Instagram 用户) everywhere, it can even make meals more enjoyable. When people were encouraged to take at least three photos while they ate lunch, they were more immersed in their meals than those who weren't told to take photos.

Was it the satisfying click of the camera? The physical act of the snap? No, they found; just the act of planning to take a photo - and not actually taking it - had the same joy-boosting effect. "If you want to take mental photos, that works the same way," Diehl says. "Thinking about what you would want to photograph also gets you more engaged."

51. What does the author say about photo-taking in the past?

- A. It was a painstaking effort for recording life's major events.
- B. It was a luxury that only a few wealthy people could enjoy.
- C. It was a good way to preserve one's precious images.
- D. It was a skill that required lots of practice to master.

52. Kristin Diehl conducted a series of experiments on photo-taking to find out _____.

- A. what kind of pleasure it would actually bring to photo-takers
- B. whether people enjoyed it when they did sightseeing
- C. how it could help to enrich people's life experiences
- D. whether it prevented people enjoying what they were doing

53. What do the results of Diehl's experiments show about people taking pictures?

- A. They are distracted from what they are doing.
- B. They can better remember what they see or do.
- C. They are more absorbed in what catches their eye.
- D. They can have a better understanding of the world.

54. What is found about museum visitors with the aid of eye-tracking glasses?

- A. They come out with better photographs of the exhibits.
- B. They focus more on the exhibits when taking pictures.
- C. They have a better view of what are on display.
- D. They follow the historical events more easily.

55. What do we learn from the last paragraph?

- A. It is better to make plans before taking photos.
- B. Mental photos can be as beautiful as snapshots.
- C. Photographers can derive great joy from the click of the camera.
- D. Even the very thought of taking a photo can have a positive effect.

第二套

Passage One

Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.

Human memory is notoriously unreliable. Even people with the sharpest facial-recognition skills can only remember so much.

It's tough to quantify how good a person is at remembering. No one really knows how many different faces someone can recall, for example, but various estimates tend to hover in the thousands - based on the number of acquaintances a person might have.

Machines aren't limited this way. Give the right computer a massive database of faces, and it can process what it sees - then recognize a face it's told to find - with remarkable speed and precision. This skill is what supports the enormous promise of facial-recognition software in the 21st century. It's also what makes contemporary surveillance systems so scary.

The thing is, machines still have limitations when it comes to facial recognition. And scientists are only just beginning to understand what those constraints are. To begin to figure out how computers are struggling, researchers at the University of Washington created a massive database of faces - they call it MegaFace - and tested a variety of facial-recognition algorithms(算法) as they scaled up in complexity. The idea was to test the machines on a database that included up to 1 million different images of nearly 700,000 different people - and not just a large database featuring a relatively small number of different faces, more consistent with what's been used in other research.

As the databases grew, machine accuracy dipped across the board. Algorithms that were right 95% of the time when they were dealing with a 13,000-image database, for example, were accurate about 70% of the time when confronted with 1 million images. That's still pretty good, says one of the researchers, Ira Kemelmacher-Shlizerman. "Much better than we expected," she said.

Machines also had difficulty adjusting for people who look a lot alike - either doppelgangers(长相极相似的人), whom the machine would have trouble identifying as two separate people, or the same person who appeared in different photos at different ages or in different lighting, whom the machine would incorrectly view as separate people.

"Once we scale up, algorithms must be sensitive to tiny changes in identities and at the same time invariant to lighting, pose, age," Kemelmacher-Shlizerman said.

The trouble is, for many of the researchers who'd like to design systems to address these challenges, massive datasets for experimentation just don't exist - at least, not in formats that are accessible to academic researchers. Training sets like the ones Google and Facebook have are private. There are no public databases that contain millions of faces. MegaFace's creators say it's the largest publicly available facial-recognition dataset out there.

"An ultimate face recognition algorithm should perform with billions of people in a dataset," the researchers wrote.

46. Compared with human memory, machines can _____.

- A) identify human faces more efficiently B) tell a friend from a mere acquaintance
C) store an unlimited number of human faces D) perceive images invisible to the human eye
47. Why did researchers create MegaFace?
- A) To enlarge the volume of the facial-recognition database.
B) To increase the variety of facial-recognition software.
C) To understand computers' problems with facial recognition.
D) To reduce the complexity of facial-recognition algorithms.
48. What does the passage say about machine accuracy?
- A) It falls short of researchers' expectations. B) It improves with added computing power.
C) It varies greatly with different algorithms. D) It decreases as the database size increases.
49. What is said to be a shortcoming of facial-recognition machines?
- A) They cannot easily tell apart people with near-identical appearances.
B) They have difficulty identifying changes in facial expressions.
C) They are not sensitive to minute changes in people's mood.
D) They have problems distinguishing people of the same age.
50. What is the difficulty confronting researchers of facial-recognition machines?
- A) No computer is yet able to handle huge datasets of human faces.
B) There do not exist public databases with sufficient face samples.
C) There are no appropriate algorithms to process the face samples.
D) They have trouble converting face datasets into the right format.

Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

There're currently 21.5 million students in America, and many will be funding their college on borrowed money. Given that there's now over \$1.3 trillion in student loans on the books, it's pretty clear that many students are far from sensible. The average student's debt upon graduation now approaches \$40,000, and as college becomes ever more expensive, calls to make it "free" are multiplying. Even Hillary Clinton says that when it comes to college, "Costs won't be a barrier."

But the only way college could be free is if the faculty and staff donated their time, the buildings required no maintenance, and campuses required no utilities. As long as it's impossible to produce something from nothing, costs are absolutely a barrier.

The actual question we debate is who should pay for people to go to college. If taxpayers are to bear the cost of forgiving student loans, shouldn't they have a say in how their money is used?

At least taxpayers should be able to decide what students will study on the public dime. If we're going to force taxpayers to foot the bill for college degrees, students should only study those subjects that're of greatest benefit to taxpayers. After all, students making their own choices in this respect is what caused the problem in the first place. We simply don't need more poetry, gender studies, or sociology majors. How do we know which subjects benefit society? Easy.

Average starting salaries give a clear indication of what type of training society needs its

new workers to have. Certainly, there're benefits to a college major beyond the job a student can perform. But if we're talking about the benefits to society, the only thing that matters is what the major enables the student to produce for society. And the value of what the student can produce is reflected in the wage employers are willing to pay the student to produce it.

A low wage for elementary school teachers, however, doesn't mean elementary education isn't important. It simply means there're too many elementary school teachers already.

Meanwhile, there're few who're willing and able to perform jobs requiring a petroleum engineering major, so the value of one more of those people is very high.

So we can have taxpayers pick up students' tuition in exchange for dictating what those students will study. Or we can allow students both to choose their majors and pay for their education themselves. But in the end, one of two things is true:

Either a college major is worth its cost or it isn't. If yes, taxpayer financing isn't needed. If not, taxpayer financing isn't desirable. Either way, taxpayers have no business paying for students' college education.

51. What does the author think of college students funding their education through loans?

- A) They only expect to get huge returns. B) They are acting in an irrational way.
- C) They benefit at taxpayers' expense. D) They will regret doing so someday.

52. In the author's opinion, free college education is _____.

- A) impractical B) unsustainable C) a goal to strive for D) a way to social equality

53. What should students do if taxpayers are to bear their college costs?

- A) Work even harder to repay society. B) Choose their subjects more carefully.
- C) Choose majors that will serve society's practical needs.
- D) Allow taxpayers to participate in college administration.

54. What does the author say about the value of a student's college education?

- A) It is underestimated by profit-seeking employers.
- B) It is to be proved by what they can do on the job.
- C) It is well reflected in their average starting salary.
- D) It is embodied in how they remove social barriers.

55. What message does the author want to convey in the passage?

- A) Students should think carefully whether to go to college.
- B) Taxpayers should only finance the most gifted students.
- C) The worth of a college education is open to debate.
- D) College students should fund their own education.

第三套

Passage One

Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.

Economically speaking, are we better off than we were ten years ago? Twenty years

ago?

In their thirst for evidence on this issue, commentators seized on the recent report by the Census Bureau, which found that average household income rose by 5.2% in 2015. Unfortunately, that conclusion puts too much weight on a useful, but flawed and incomplete, statistic. Among the more significant problems with the Census's measure are that: 1) it excludes taxes, transfers, and compensation like employer-provided health insurance; and 2) it is based on surveys rather than data. Even if precisely measured, income data exclude important determinants of economic well-being, such as the hours of work needed to earn that income.

While thinking about the question, we came across a recently published article by Charles Jones and Peter Klenow, which proposes an interesting new measure of economic welfare. While by no means perfect, it is considerably more comprehensive than average income, taking into account not only growth in consumption per person but also changes in working time, life expectancy, and inequality. Moreover, it can be used to assess economic performance both across countries and over time.

The Jones-Klenow method can be illustrated by a cross-country example. Suppose we want to compare the economic welfare of citizens of the U.S. and France in 2005.

In 2005, as the authors observe: real consumption per person in France was only 60% as high as the U.S., making it appear that Americans were economically much better off than the French on average. However, that comparison omits other relevant factors: leisure time, life expectancy, and economic inequality. The French take longer vacations and retire earlier, so typically work fewer hours; they enjoy a higher life expectancy, presumably reflecting advantages with respect to health care, diet, lifestyle, and the like; and income and consumption are somewhat more equally distributed there than in the U.S. Because of these differences, comparing France's consumption with the U.S.'s overstates the gap in economic welfare.

Similar calculations can be used to compare the U.S. and other countries. For example, this calculation puts economic welfare in the United Kingdom at 97% of U.S. levels, but estimates Mexican well-being at 22%.

The Jones-Klenow measure can also assess an economy's performance over time. According to this measure, as of the early-to-mid-2000s, the U.S. had the highest economic welfare of any large country. Since 2007, economic welfare in the U.S. has continued to improve. However, the pace of improvement has slowed markedly.

Methodologically, the lesson from the Jones-Klenow research is that economic welfare is multi-dimensional. Their approach is flexible enough that in principle other important quality-of-life changes could be incorporated - for example, decreases in total emissions of pollutants and declines in crime rates.

46. What does the author think of the 2015 report by the Census Bureau?

- A. It is based on questionable statistics.
- B. It reflects the economic changes.
- C. It evidences the improved welfare.
- D. It provides much food for thought.

47. What does the author say about the Jones-Klenow method?

- A. It is widely used to compare the economic growth across countries.
- B. It revolutionizes the way of measuring ordinary people's livelihood.
- C. It focuses on people's consumption rather than their average income.

- D. It is a more comprehensive measure of people's economic well-being.
48. What do Jones and Klenow think of the comparison between France and the U.S. in terms of real consumption per person?
- A. It reflected the existing big gap between the two economies.
- B. It neglected many important indicators of people's welfare.
- C. It covered up the differences between individual citizens.
- D. It failed to count in their difference in natural resources.
49. What is an advantage of the Jones-Klenow method?
- A. It can accurately pinpoint a country's current economic problems.
- B. It can help to raise people's awareness of their economic well-being.
- C. It can diagnose the causes of a country's slowing pace of economic improvement.
- D. It can compare a country's economic conditions between different periods of time.
50. What can we infer from the passage about American people's economic well-being?
- A. It is much better than that of their European counterparts.
- B. It has been on the decline ever since the turn of the century.
- C. It has not improved as much as reported by the Census Bureau.
- D. It has not been accurately assessed and reported since mid-2000s.

Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

If you've ever started a sentence with, "If I were you..." or found yourself scratching your head at a colleague's agony over a decision when the answer is crystal-clear, there's a scientific reason behind it. Our own decision-making abilities can become depleted over the course of the day causing indecision or poor choices, but choosing on behalf of someone else is an enjoyable task that doesn't suffer the same pitfalls.

The problem is "decision fatigue," a psychological phenomenon that takes a toll on the quality of your choices after a long day of decision making, says Evan Polman, a leading psychologist.

Physicians who have been on the job for several hours, for example, are more likely to prescribe antibiotics to patients when it's unwise to do so. "Presumably it's because it's simple and easy to write a prescription and consider a patient case closed rather than investigate further," Polman says.

But decision fatigue goes away when you are making the decision for someone else. When people imagine themselves as advisers and imagine their own choices as belonging to someone else, they feel less tired and rely less on decision shortcuts to make those choices. "By taking upon the role of adviser rather than decision maker, one does not suffer the consequences of decision fatigue," he says. "It's as if there's something fun and liberating about making someone else's choice."

Getting input from others not only offers a fresh perspective and thought process; it often also includes riskier choices. While this sounds undesirable, it can be quite good, says Polman. "When people experience decision fatigue - when they are tired of making choices - they have a tendency to choose to go with the status quo(现状)," he says. "But the status

quo can be problematic, since a change in the course of action can sometimes be important and lead to a positive outcome."

In order to achieve a successful outcome or reward, some level of risk is almost always essential. "People who are susceptible to decision fatigue will likely choose to do nothing over something," he says, "That's not to say that risk is always good, but it is related to taking actions whereas decision fatigue assuredly leads to inaction and the possible chagrin(懊恼) of a decision maker who might otherwise prefer a new course but is unfortunately hindered."

Just because you can make good choices for others doesn't mean you'll do the same for yourself, Polman cautions. "Research has found that women negotiate higher salaries for others than they do for themselves," he says, adding that people slip in and out of decision roles.

51. What does the author say about people making decisions?

- A. They may become exhausted by making too many decisions for themselves.
- B. They are more cautious in making decisions for others than for themselves.
- C. They tend to make decisions the way they think advantageous to them.
- D. They show considerable differences in their decision-making abilities.

52. What does the example about the physicians illustrate?

- A. Patients seldom receive due care towards the end of the day.
- B. Prescription of antibiotics can be harmful to patients' health.
- C. Decision fatigue may prevent people making wise decisions.
- D. Medical doctors are especially susceptible to decision fatigue.

53. When do people feel less decision fatigue?

- A. When they take decision shortcuts.
- B. When they help others to make decisions.
- C. When they have major decisions to make.
- D. When they have advisers to turn to.

54. What are people likely to do when decision fatigue sets in?

- A. They turn to physicians for advice.
- B. They tend to make risky decisions.
- C. They adopt a totally new perspective.
- D. They refrain from trying anything new.

55. What does the passage say about taking some risk in decision making?

- A. It is vital for one to reach the goal desired.
- B. It is likely to entail serious consequences.
- C. It will enable people to be more creative.
- D. It will more often than not end in regret.

2018 年 12 月

第一套

Passage One

Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.

Perhaps it is time for farmers to put their feet up now that robots are used to inspect crops, dig up weeds, and even have become shepherds, too. Commercial growing fields are astronomically huge and take thousands of man-hours to operate. One prime example is one of Australia's most isolated cattle stations, Suplejack Downs in the Northern Territory, extending across 4,000 square kilometers, taking over 13 hours to reach by car from the nearest major town - Alice Springs.

The extreme isolation of these massive farms leaves them often unattended, and monitored only once or twice a year, which means if the livestock falls ill or requires assistance, it can be a long time for farmers to discover.

However, robots are coming to the rescue.

Robots are currently under a two-year trial in Wales which will train 'farmbots' to herd, monitor the health of livestock, and make sure there is enough pasture for them to graze on. The robots are equipped with many sensors to identify conditions of the environment, cattle and food, using thermal and vision sensors that detect changes in body temperature.

"You've also got color, texture and shape sensors looking down at the ground to check pasture quality," says Salah Sukkarieh of the University of Sydney, who will carry out trials on several farms in central New South Wales.

During the trials, the robot algorithms(算法) and mechanics will be fine-tuned to make it better suited to ailing livestock and ensure it safely navigates around potential hazards including trees, mud, swamps, and hills.

"We want to improve the quality of animal health and make it easier for farmers to maintain large landscapes where animals roam free," says Sukkarieh.

The robots are not limited to herding and monitoring livestock. They have been created to count individual fruit, inspect crops, and even pull weeds.

Many robots are equipped with high-tech sensors and complex learning algorithms to avoid injuring humans as they work side by side. The robots also learn the most efficient and safest passages, and allow engineers and farmers to analyze and better optimize the attributes and tasks of the robot, as well as provide a live stream giving real-time feedback on exactly what is happening on the farms.

Of course, some worry lies in replacing agricultural workers. However, it is farmers that are pushing for the advancements due to ever-increasing labor vacancies, making it difficult to maintain large-scale operations.

The robots have provided major benefits to farmers in various ways, from hunting and pulling weeds to monitoring the condition of every single fruit. Future farms will likely

experience a greater deal of autonomy as robots take up more and more farm work efficiently.

46. What may farmers be able to do with robots appearing on the farming scene?

- A) Upgrade farm produce. B) Enjoy more leisure hours.
- C) Modify the genes of crops. D) Cut down farming costs.

47. What will 'farmbots' be expected to do?

- A) Take up many of the farmers' routines. B) Provide medical treatments for livestock.
- C) Lead the trend in farming the world over. D) Improve the quality of pastures for grazing.

48. What can robots do when equipped with high-tech sensors and complex learning algorithms?

- A) Help farmers choose the most efficient and safest passages.
- B) Help farmers simplify their farming tasks and management.
- C) Allow farmers to learn instantly what is occurring on the farm.
- D) Allow farmers to give them real-time instructions on what to do.

49. Why are farmers pressing for robotic farming?

- A) Farming costs are fast increasing. B) Robotics technology is maturing.
- C) Robotic farming is the trend. D) Labor shortage is worsening.

50. What does the author think future farms will be like?

- A) More and more automated. B) More and more productive.
- C) Larger and larger in scale. D) Better and better in condition.

Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

The public must be able to understand the basics of science to make informed decisions. Perhaps the most dramatic example of the negative consequences of poor communication between scientists and the public is the issue of climate change, where a variety of factors, not the least of which is a breakdown in the transmission of fundamental climate data to the general public, has contributed to widespread mistrust and misunderstanding of scientists and their research.

The issue of climate change also illustrates how the public acceptance and understanding of science (or the lack of it) can influence governmental decision-making with regard to regulation, science policy and research funding.

However, the importance of effective communication with a general audience is not limited to hot issues like climate change. It is also critical for socially charged neuroscience issues such as the genetic basis for a particular behavior, the therapeutic potential of stem cell therapy for neurodegenerative diseases, or the use of animal models, areas where the public understanding of science can also influence policy and funding decisions. Furthermore, with continuing advances in individual genome(基因组) sequencing and the advent of personalized medicine, more non-scientists will need to be comfortable analyzing complex scientific information to make decisions that directly affect their quality of life.

Science journalism is the main channel for the popularization of scientific information among the public. Much has been written about how the relationship between scientists and

the media can shape the efficient transmission of scientific advances to the public. Good science journalists are specialists in making complex topics accessible to a general audience, while adhering to scientific accuracy.

Unfortunately, pieces of science journalism can also oversimplify and generalize their subject material to the point that the basic information conveyed is obscured or at worst, obviously wrong. The impact of a basic discovery on human health can be exaggerated so that the public thinks a miraculous cure is a few months to years away when in reality the significance of the study is far more limited.

Even though scientists play a part in transmitting information to journalists and ultimately the public, too often the blame for ineffective communication is placed on the side of the journalists. We believe, that at least part of the problem lies in places other than the interaction between scientists and members of the media, and exists because for one thing we underestimate how difficult it is for scientists to communicate effectively with a diversity of audiences, and for another most scientists do not receive formal training in science communication.

51. What does the example of climate change serve to show?

- A) The importance of climate data is increasingly recognized.
- B) Adequate government funding is vital to scientific research.
- C) Government regulation helps the public understand science.
- D) Common folks' scientific knowledge can sway policy making.

52. What should non-scientists do to ensure their quality of life?

- A) Seek personalized medical assistance from doctors.
- B) Acquire a basic understanding of medical science.
- C) Have their individual genome sequenced.
- D) Make informed use of animal models.

53. Why is it important for scientists to build a good relationship with the media?

- A) It helps them to effectively popularize new scientific information.
- B) It enables the public to develop a positive attitude toward science.
- C) It helps them to establish a more positive public image.
- D) It enables them to apply their findings to public health.

54. What does the author say is the problem with science journalism?

- A) It is keen on transmitting sensational information.
- B) It tends to oversimplify people's health problems.
- C) It may give inaccurate or distorted information to the public.
- D) It may provide information open to different interpretations.

55. What should scientists do to impart their latest findings to the public more effectively?

- A) Give training to science journalists.
- B) Stimulate public interest in science.
- C) Seek timely assistance from the media.
- D) Improve their communication skills.

第二套

Passage One

Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.

While human achievements in mathematics continue to reach new levels of complexity, many of us who aren't mathematicians at heart (or engineers by trade) may struggle to remember the last time we used calculus(微积分).

It's a fact not lost on American educators, who amid rising math failure rates are debating how math can better meet the real-life needs of students. Should we change the way math is taught in schools, or eliminate some courses entirely?

Andrew Hacker, Queens College political science professor, thinks that advanced algebra and other higher-level math should be cut from curricula in favor of courses with more routine usefulness, like statistics.

"We hear on all sides that we're not teaching enough mathematics, and the Chinese are running rings around us," Hacker says. "I'm suggesting we're teaching too much mathematics to too many people... not everybody has to know calculus. If you're going to become an aeronautical(航空的) engineer, fine. But most of us aren't."

Instead, Hacker is pushing for more courses like the one he teaches at Queens College: Numeracy 101. There, his students of "citizen statistics" learn to analyze public information like the federal budget and corporate reports. Such courses, Hacker argues, are a remedy for the numerical illiteracy of adults who have completed high-level math like algebra but are unable to calculate the price of, say, a carpet by area.

Hacker's argument has met with opposition from other math educators who say what's needed is to help students develop a better relationship with math earlier, rather than teaching them less math altogether.

Maria Droujkova is a founder of Natural Math, and has taught basic calculus concepts to 5-year-olds. For Droujkova, high-level math is important, and what it could use in American classrooms is an injection of childlike wonder.

"Make mathematics more available," Droujkova says. "Redesign it so it's more accessible to more kinds of people: young children, adults who worry about it, adults who may have had bad experiences. "

Pamela Harris, a lecturer at the University of Texas at Austin, has a similar perspective. Harris says that American education is suffering from an epidemic of "fake math" - an emphasis on rote memorization(死记硬背) of formulas and steps, rather than an understanding of how math can influence the ways we see the world.

Andrew Hacker, for the record, remains skeptical.

"I'm going to leave it to those who are in mathematics to work out the ways to make their subject interesting and exciting so students want to take it," Hacker says. "All that I ask is that alternatives be offered instead of putting all of us on the road to calculus. "

46. What does the author say about ordinary Americans?

- A) They struggle to solve math problems.
- B) They think math is a complex subject.
- C) They find high-level math of little use.
- D) They work hard to learn high-level math.

47. What is the general complaint about America's math education according to Hacker?
- A) America is not doing as well as China.
 - B) Math professors are not doing a good job.
 - C) It doesn't help students develop their literacy.
 - D) There has hardly been any innovation for years.
48. What does Andrew Hacker's Numeracy 101 aim to do?
- A) Allow students to learn high-level math step by step.
 - B) Enable students to make practical use of basic math.
 - C) Lay a solid foundation for advanced math studies.
 - D) Help students to develop their analytical abilities.
49. What does Maria Droujkova suggest math teachers do in class?
- A) Make complex concepts easy to understand.
 - B) Start teaching children math at an early age.
 - C) Help children work wonders with calculus.
 - D) Try to arouse students' curiosity in math.
50. What does Pamela Harris think should be the goal of math education?
- A) To enable learners to understand the world better.
 - B) To help learners to tell fake math from real math.
 - C) To broaden Americans' perspectives on math.
 - D) To exert influence on world development.

Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

For years, the U.S. has experienced a shortage of registered nurses. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that while the number of nurses will increase by 19 percent by 2022, demand will grow faster than supply, and that there will be over one million unfilled nursing jobs by then.

So what's the solution? Robots.

Japan is ahead of the curve when it comes to this trend. Toyohashi University of Technology has developed Terapio, a robotic medical cart that can make hospital rounds, deliver medications and other items, and retrieve records. It follows a specific individual, such as a doctor or nurse, who can use it to record and access patient data. This type of robot will likely be one of the first to be implemented in hospitals because it has fairly minimal patient contact.

Robots capable of social engagement help with loneliness as well as cognitive functioning, but the robot itself doesn't have to engage directly - it can serve as an intermediary for human communication. Telepresence robots such as MantaroBot, Vgo, and Giraff can be controlled through a computer, smartphone, or tablet, allowing family members or doctors to remotely monitor patients or Skype them, often via a screen where the robot's 'face' would be. If you can't get to the nursing home to visit grandma, you can use a telepresence robot to hang out with her. A 2016 study found that users had a "consistently positive attitude" about the Giraff robot's ability to enhance communication and decrease feelings of loneliness.

A robot's appearance affects its ability to successfully interact with humans, which is why the RIKEN-TRI Collaboration Center for Human-Interactive Robot Research decided to develop a robotic nurse that looks like a huge teddy bear. RIBA (Robot for Interactive Body Assistance), also known as 'Robear', can help patients into and out of wheelchairs and beds with its strong arms.

On the less cute and more scary side there is Actroid F, which is so human-like that some patients may not know the difference. This conversational robot companion has cameras in its eyes, which allow it to track patients and use appropriate facial expressions and body language in its interactions. During a month-long hospital trial, researchers asked 70 patients how they felt being around the robot and "only three or four said they didn't like having it around."

It's important to note that robotic nurses don't decide courses of treatment or make diagnoses (though robot doctors and surgeons may not be far off). Instead, they perform routine and laborious tasks, freeing nurses up to attend to patients with immediate needs. This is one industry where it seems the integration of robots will lead to collaboration, not replacement.

51. What does the author say about Japan?

- A) It delivers the best medications for the elderly.
- B) It takes the lead in providing robotic care.
- C) It provides retraining for registered nurses.
- D) It sets the trend in future robotics technology.

52. What do we learn about the robot Terapio?

- A) It has been put to use in many Japanese hospitals.
- B) It provides specific individualized care to patients.
- C) It does not have much direct contact with patients.
- D) It has not revolutionized medical service in Japan.

53. What are telepresence robots designed to do?

- A) Directly interact with patients to prevent them from feeling lonely.
- B) Cater to the needs of patients for recovering their cognitive capacity.
- C) Closely monitor the patients' movements and conditions around the clock.
- D) Facilitate communication between patients and doctors or family members.

54. What is one special feature of the robot Actroid F?

- A) It interacts with patients just like a human companion.
- B) It operates quietly without patients realizing its presence.
- C) It likes to engage in everyday conversations with patients.
- D) It uses body language even more effectively than words.

55. What can we infer from the last paragraph?

- A) Doctors and surgeons will soon be laid off.
- B) The robotics industry will soon take off.
- C) Robots will not make nurses redundant.
- D) Collaboration will not replace competition.

第三套

Passage One

Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.

Children with attention problems in early childhood were 40% less likely to graduate from high school, says a new study from Duke University.

The study included 386 kindergarteners from schools in the Fast Track Project, a multi-site clinical trial in the U.S. that in 1991 began tracking how children developed across their lives.

With this study, researchers examined early academic attention and socio-emotional skills and how each contributed to academic success into young adulthood.

They found that early attention skills were the most consistent predictor of academic success, and that likability by peers also had a modest effect on academic performance.

By fifth grade, children with early attention difficulties had lower grades and reading achievement scores than their peers. As fifth-graders, children with early attention problems obtained average reading scores at least 3% lower than their contemporaries' and grades at least 8% lower than those of their peers. This was after controlling for IQ, socio-economic status and academic skills at school entry.

Although these may not seem like large effects, the impact of early attention problems continued throughout the children's academic careers. Lower reading achievement scores and grades in fifth grade contributed to reduced grades in middle school and thereby contributed to a 40% lower high school graduation rate.

"The children we identified as having attention difficulties were not diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder(注意力缺乏多动症) (ADHD), although some may have had the disorder. Our findings suggest that even more modest attention difficulties can increase the risk of negative academic outcomes", said David Rabiner, an associate dean of Duke's Trinity College of Arts & Sciences, whose research has focused on ADHD and interventions to improve academic performance in children with attention difficulties.

Social acceptance by peers in early childhood also predicted grades in fifth grade. Children not as liked by their first-grade peers had slightly lower grades in fifth grade, while those with higher social acceptance had higher grades.

"This study shows the importance of so-called 'non-cognitive' or soft skills in contributing to children's positive peer relationships, which, in turn, contribute to their academic success," said Kenneth Dodge, director of the Duke Center for Child and Family Policy.

The results highlight the need to develop effective early interventions to help those with attention problems stay on track academically and for educators to encourage positive peer relationships, the researchers said.

"We're learning that student success requires a more comprehensive approach, one that incorporates not only academic skills but also social, self-regulatory and attention skills," Dodge said. "If we neglect any of these areas, the child's development lags. If we attend to these areas, a child's success may reinforce itself with positive feedback loops."

46. What is the focus of the new study from Duke University?
- A) The contributors to children's early attention.
 - B) The predictors of children's academic success.
 - C) The factors that affect children's emotional well-being.
 - D) The determinants of children's development of social skills.
47. How did the researchers ensure that their findings are valid?
- A) By attaching equal importance to all possible variables examined.
 - B) By collecting as many typical samples as were necessary.
 - C) By preventing them from being affected by factors not under study.
 - D) By focusing on the family background of the children being studied.
48. What do we learn from the findings of the Duke study?
- A) Modest students are generally more attentive than their contemporaries.
 - B) There are more children with attention difficulties than previously thought.
 - C) Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder accounts for most academic failures.
 - D) Children's academic performance may suffer from even slight inattention.
49. What does the Duke study find about children better accepted by peers?
- A) They do better academically.
 - B) They are easy to get on with.
 - C) They are teachers' favorites.
 - D) They care less about grades.
50. What can we conclude from the Duke study?
- A) Children's success is related to their learning environment.
 - B) School curriculum should cover a greater variety of subjects.
 - C) Social skills are playing a key role in children's development.
 - D) An all-round approach should be adopted in school education.

Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

On Jan. 9, 2007, Steve Jobs formally announced Apple's "revolutionary mobile phone" - a device that combined the functionality of an iPod, phone and Internet communication into a single unit, navigated by touch.

It was a huge milestone in the development of smartphones, which are now owned by a majority of American adults and are increasingly common across the globe.

As smartphones have multiplied, so have questions about their impact on how we live and how we work. Often the advantages of convenient, mobile technology are both obvious and taken for granted, leaving more subtle topics for concerned discussion: Are smartphones disturbing children's sleep? Is an inability to get away from work having a negative impact on health? And what are the implications for privacy?

But today, on the 10th anniversary of the iPhone, let's take a moment to consider a less obvious advantage: the potential for smartphone technology to revolutionize behavioral science. That's because, for the first time in human history, a large proportion of the species is in continuous contact with technology that can record key features of an individual's behavior and environment.

Researchers have already begun to use smartphones in social scientific research, either

to query people regularly as they engage in their normal lives or to record activity using the device's built-in sensors. These studies are confirming, challenging and extending what's been found using more traditional approaches, in which people report how they behaved in real life or participate in relatively short and artificial laboratory-based tasks.

Such studies are just first steps. As more data are collected and methods for analysis improve, researchers will be in a better position to identify how different experiences, behaviors and environments relate to each other and evolve over time, with the potential to improve people's productivity and wellbeing in a variety of domains. Beyond revealing population-wide patterns, the right combination of data and analysis can also help individuals identify unique characteristics of their own behavior, including conditions that could indicate the need for some form of intervention - such as an unusual increase in behaviors that signal a period of depression. Smartphone-based data collection comes at an appropriate time in the evolution of psychological science. Today, the field is in transition, moving away from a focus on laboratory studies with undergraduate participants towards more complex, real-world situations studied with more diverse groups of people. Smartphones offer new tools for achieving these ambitions, providing rich data about everyday behaviors in a variety of contexts.

So here's another way in which smartphones might transform the way we live and work: by offering insights into human psychology and behavior and, thus, supporting smarter social science.

51. What does the author say about the negative impact of smartphones?

- A) It has been overshadowed by the positive impact.
- B) It has more often than not been taken for granted.
- C) It is not so obvious but has caused some concern.
- D) It is subtle but should by no means be overstated.

52. What is considered a less obvious advantage of smartphone technology?

- A) It systematically records real human interactions.
- B) It helps people benefit from technological advances.
- C) It brings people into closer contact with each other.
- D) It greatly improves research on human behavior.

53. What characterizes traditional psychological research?

- A) It is based on huge amounts of carefully collected data.
- B) It relies on lab observations and participants' reports.
- C) It makes use of the questionnaire method.
- D) It is often expensive and time-consuming.

54. How will future psychological studies benefit individuals?

- A) By helping them pin down their unusual behaviors.
- B) By helping them maintain a positive state of mind.
- C) By helping them live their lives in a unique way.
- D) By helping them cope with abnormal situations.

55. What do we learn about current psychological studies?

- A) They are going through a period of painful transition.
- B) They are increasingly focused on real-life situations.
- C) They are conducted in a more rigorous manner.

D) They are mainly targeted towards undergraduates.

答案

2016 年 6 月

第一套 46-55 DCCBA BDAAC

第二套 46-55 CCABA DBDAB

第三套 46-55 CDCAB BBCDA

2016 年 12 月

第一套 46-55 DABAC ADCBD

第二套 46-55 ACCBD CDBAB

第三套 46-55 BDCAA CBCAD

2017 年 6 月

第一套 46-55 BDCAC DDBCA

第二套 46-55 ABCAD BCDBA

第三套 46-55 DACCB ABDDA

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2018 年 6 月

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第二套 46-55 ACDAB BACCD

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2018 年 12 月

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